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ABSTRACT

This document is comprised of the three 2003 issues of the newsletter for Generations United, a national membership organization focused on promoting intergenerational policies, strategies, and programs. The first issue focuses on faith-based intergenerational programs and highlights three such programs. The second issue focuses on arts and cultural exchange and unique ways in which art and culture connect the generations, bringing hope and resilience. The third issue focuses on innovation in intergenerational programming. Regular features of the newsletter include program, legislative, and public policy updates; conference reports; and news from the states.
(HTH)

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Together: The Generations United Newsletter, 2003.

Jaia Peterson, Editor

Generations United

**Vol. 8, No. 1-3
2003**

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Together



THE GENERATIONS UNITED NEWSLETTER • Volume 8 • Number 1 • 2003

INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMS ~ FAITH-BASED POSSIBILITIES

By David J. Fetterman
Director, GrandKIN Raising
GrandKIDS Program,
Generations Together

It's Sunday morning and 4-year old Brianna returns to her pew after being accompanied to the restroom by "Grandma Mary." "See you after church," her surrogate grandmother whispers as she lifts Brianna onto the bench. With her eye on her seat, young and old hands give her a boost as they help her back to her perch between mom and her older brother. Still squirming, Brianna joins the diverse voices of the congregation in a hymn as she looks over the



Relative caregivers and their children gather at a faith-based intergenerational wellness program in Pittsburgh, PA.

crowd to scope out her playmates when the service is done. On Sunday, Brianna's company isn't limited to her pre-school friends and immediate family. Some of favorite playmates have gray hair.

As intergenerational professionals we spend much time exploring innovative program options to bring together young and old, yet we often overlook existing settings like Brianna's church which offers her opportunities to be surrounded with church family members of all ages. Faith communities are

natural contexts within which to do intergenerational programming. Many faith communities have likely been doing intergenerational programming within the scope of their faith-based activities, but have not labeled it as such. There is the rural congregation, for example, whose members have never heard of intergenerational programs, but who conduct weekly religious education in one room with participants of all ages interacting during that hour. Some congregations connect new

or prospective members with older members of the faith community who agree to serve as their mentors as they begin their journey with this community of faith. Another congregation regularly takes its children and youth to visit and worship with residents in a local Skilled Nursing Facility. The list of examples could go on. Churches, synagogues, mosques, temples and other houses of worship are natural environments within which intergenerational interactions can thrive because they are not limited in their missions to one age or another, but rather exist for people of all ages.

Beyond intergenerational opportunities in houses of worship, what special contributions can faith-based organizations make to intergenerational programming? Faith-based intergenerational programs have recently become popular because of the hospitable political climate in the United States, where President Bush has cited the importance of faith-based organizations and the

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This Issue: Faith-Based Intergenerational Programs

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DONNA BUTTS



Nick told me he has been volunteering since he was six months old. Back then his mother would take him along on visits to elder care facilities as a part of the outreach programs Little Brothers-Friends of the Elderly sponsored. Now, at 16, he continues the visits on his own. Nick was part of a panel moderated by Jan Hively who coordinates Minnesota's Vital Aging Network. A couple of us

joined him in addressing an intergenerational public policy institute sponsored by the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute. He spoke eloquently about how great older people were and that it was too bad more young people didn't take advantage of spending time with them. It was such a natural way of life for him that started through a structured program sponsored by a faith-based organization.

Nick's not alone. Many terrific intergenerational programs are offered by faith-based organizations. We're fortunate because a number of these organizations are long time, active members of GU. Many programs for grandparents and other relatives raising children have strong spiritual roots as well. It seemed fitting for us to focus this issue of *Together* on intergenerational faith-based programs.

In addition to traveling and speaking, we've had a really busy fall putting the finishing touches on several new publications. *Reaching Across the Generations: An Action Agenda to Strengthen Communities Through Intergenerational Shared Sites and Shared Resources* is our monograph on shared sites that provides the roadmap for our future work in this important area. Given the natural intergenerational nature of houses of worship, the timing with this issue is excellent.

Lastly, on behalf of all of us at GU, I want to thank Maggie Biscarr who has left us after almost four years to pursue her social work license. Ana Beltran is also transitioning and expecting her second child. Fortunately she will continue as a special advisor to our grandparent work on a limited basis while she tends to her young family. Maggie and Ana have been a super team and, while we'll miss them, I'm delighted that our National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children is in the capable hands of Caroline Crocoll and Cara Goldstein.

FROM THE CHAIR: JOHN ROTHER



As the global interest in intergenerational programming grows, Generations United is becoming increasingly active with ICIP, the International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes. In the spring Donna Butts and Amy Goyer of AARP were elected as the two Americans to serve on ICIP's management committee. Congratulations to GU member Valerie Kuehne of the University of Victoria for winning the bid for the 2nd biennial international ICIP conference to be held in the spring of 2004 in Victoria, Canada.

The Board continues to discuss the most effective role for Generations United. During our September meeting, the board affirmed that GU should continue our dual focus on public policy and programs. GU's program-related work will focus on promoting innovative intergenerational strategies; developing knowledge; and sharing best practices through technical assistance and training. Our policy focus includes child poverty, healthcare (including Medicaid), and funding for social services.

Thanks to the generous support of the Administration on Aging, GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children will be continuing to provide another year of service. The renewed grant will help us launch a survey of the aging network and primary health care providers, in order to assess and provide for the major training and technical assistance needs of these professionals.

As the 107th Congress comes to a close, we are also proud of our accomplishments in public policy. Among our successes, we worked with members of Congress to introduce the bipartisan LEGACY bill in both houses of Congress; conducted a well-attended intergenerational child poverty briefing, which was covered by C-SPAN; and successfully worked to include grandparent in the definition of parent in the reauthorized Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Work is underway on our intergenerational public policy agenda for the incoming 108th Congress. Among public policy priorities GU will focus on the reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service and will continue efforts to pass the LEGACY housing legislation to assist grandparent and other relative-headed households.

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Together's exploration of faith-based intergenerational programs in this issue is not intended to be an all-inclusive and exhaustive report. Rather, it is a glimpse into some of today's innovative work in faith communities. In future issues, we anticipate stories of unique programs of other faiths and encourage articles from communities that are not already represented. Thank you to the many authors who submitted articles on faith-based philosophies and their programs. The quality of future issues depends on your contributions and feedback and we welcome your comments and suggestions.

THEME FOR THIS ISSUE

Faith-Based Intergenerational Programs



(denotes articles that relate to theme)

GENERATIONS UNITED TOGETHER

Together celebrates the richness of generations by providing useful information about intergenerational programs and policies through articles that address the mutual well-being of children, youth, adults, and older adults.

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Generations United members represent many viewpoints. Inclusion of articles, research, conferences, or resources does not imply GU's endorsement. We encourage our members to submit articles, artwork, photographs, and information on upcoming events, recent publications, or honors. All materials are considered carefully for publication.

Together is published quarterly for members of Generations United.

Please submit e-mail to jpeterson@gu.org or a disc compatible with Microsoft Word to Editor, Generations United, 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001 or call 202/638-1263.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT: VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA

Founded in 1896, Volunteers of America (VOA) is a national, nonprofit, spiritually based organization that provides local human service programs and opportunities for individual and community involvement. Across the country, Volunteers of America serves more than 1.4 million people each year through programs in 45 states.

The organization's national headquarters is in Alexandria, Virginia, with 39 local offices around the nation. Each local office is governed by a board of directors, and develops social service programs in response to community needs and opportunities. Volunteers of America is one of the nation's largest nonprofit providers of affordable housing for seniors, operating 93 senior housing communities, as well as 14 nursing homes and seven assisted living facilities.

Volunteers of America's provides a wide range of programs and services to help meet the needs of children, youth, and adults. This remarkable array of services includes programs for youth at risk, frail elderly, abused and neglected children, people with disabilities, homeless individuals and many others. A myriad of resources, including government agencies, individuals, corporations and foundations, and program fees, support the programs.

Intergenerational activities occur in a variety of programs and locations. Two of these programs are support services for parenting grandparents and intergenerational volunteer services.

GRANDPARENTS AS PARENTS

Responding to the growing numbers of grandparents caring for their grandchildren, Volunteers of America has programs that focus special support and attention on parenting grandparents in both formal and informal arrangements. More than 100 of its 350 foster families in Chicago are grandparents raising grandchildren and almost half of the 150 children in its Philadelphia foster care programs are being cared for by grandparents or elderly relatives. In Minnesota Volunteers of America offers in-home assessments, advocacy, crisis intervention, and support groups for grandparents, providing an opportunity to share concerns and promote problem solving with others in similar situations. Similarly, Volunteers of America's No



Empty Nest program in Alaska provides support groups and individual advice.

SENIOR VOLUNTEERING

Across the country Volunteers of America looks for ways seniors can nurture youngsters and share their experience and expertise.

Through a partnership with the Corporation for National and Community Service, local VOA offices are operating Senior Service Corps programs in six states and providing many intergenerational services. Some local offices participate in intergenerational community services through

AmeriCorps programs, such as the Community Connections Program in New Orleans, where 69-year-old Yasu, a recent college graduate, and 17-year-old Megan organize youth activities in a 21st Century Learning Center.

Senior volunteers are the backbone of many services, especially for high-risk youth. Minnesota's Elder and Youth After-school Program, and Telefriends, an after-school telephone mentoring program, credit the special connections between generations for the programs' success.

Intergenerational programs also grow out of other programs. A wonderful example is the Bethesda Care Center in Fremont, Ohio. The center is a long and short term nursing facility owned and operated by Volunteers of America and is situated next door to an elementary school. The center has linked its residents with an average age of over 80, with the school's children. It began by building a path and patio connecting the two facilities and has initiated activities that are building friendships.

Volunteers of America also assists corporations in organizing retirees to volunteer in their communities, through its National Retiree Volunteer Coalition (NRVC). Many of the 100 programs established with NRVC's consultation have chosen intergenerational community services. For example, when Intel, Inc. established its program in Portland, Oregon last year, the retirees chose outreach to homeless youth as their community service.

Volunteers of America - a service provider, facilitator of volunteer service, and an advocate for both the young and the old - shares Generations United's vision for a society that respects and engages all generations.

For more information contact Margaret Ratcliff at 800-899-0089.



GENERATIONS UNITED PROGRAM UPDATE

By Sheri Steinig
Program Director

TIPS ON FINDING FUNDING AND RESOURCES

The fourth part in our series of tips for strong intergenerational partnerships focuses on developing a diverse resource and funding base. There are a variety of ways to amass the financial and in-kind resources needed to develop or sustain intergenerational programs. The following are some suggestions from Generations United's newly-revised publication *Young and Old Serving Together: Meeting Community Needs Through Intergenerational Partnerships*, available from GU.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Strong community partnerships will enable programs to share and acquire diverse resources. Each partner brings different resources and can solicit through different networks. One program in Pennsylvania forged strong partnerships with local nonprofit groups by asking each potential partner to realistically identify contributions it could make in support of the project. Partners can:

- Allocate resources, most commonly in-kind contributions of materials, facilities, publicity and promotion, communications, or designated staff with experience in youth or aging issues to administer or assist with operation of the program;
- Participate in a community-wide fundraiser or special event designed to provide program resources and promote the benefits of intergenerational initiatives; or
- Spearhead a campaign to gain community support for an intergenerational program.

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Many state agencies operate programs that could easily integrate an intergenerational component. Some agencies may have demonstration or discretionary funds that could be tapped for a special project. In other cases it may be a matter of identifying the right agency and program that would be willing to be a partner on an intergenerational project and use existing resources.

- Departments of health and social services may want to support public awareness campaigns on health promotion, substance abuse prevention, or public safety, and be willing to fund intergenerational public forums.
- State education agencies and local school districts may support older volunteers tutoring and mentoring elementary school children, working to increase immunization rates for infants and toddlers, or offering additional art and music programs.
- State units on aging and area agencies on aging may be willing to support intergenerational programs. Older volunteers from a senior center can work

- with young people on health promotion or in staffing a community food bank.
- State departments of labor often fund youth corps that could easily be expanded to include older mentors.
- Departments of environmental resources may be able to provide tools and materials to teams of young and old environmental volunteers.
- Many states and local communities have commissions or councils on the arts and the humanities that provide funding for arts activities. These grants could be used to fund intergenerational art or oral history projects.
- Most states have a commission on national and community service which coordinate statewide national service efforts including AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America programs that have numerous opportunities for intergenerational projects.
- Juvenile justice agencies can add an intergenerational component to prevention and rehabilitation programs.

FEDERAL OPPORTUNITIES

Occasionally federal agencies have funds that can be used to support intergenerational programs. While most local program operators don't have the time to monitor the Federal Register and keep track of all announcements, it is possible to ask to be put on the mailing list of a few key federal agencies. For example:

- The Corporation for National and Community Service provides funds for multi-state programs that could easily include an intergenerational component.
- Within the Department of Health and Human Services, both the Administration

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Do you work with a faith based
intergenerational program?

If the answer is YES, then we are
looking for you.

GU compiles profiles on model
programs from around the country to
include in our free online database.

To add your program, contact
Sheri Steinig at 202-638-1263 or visit
our online database at
www.gu.org/prog.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES- SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY TRAINING TO KINSHIP CAREGIVERS



By Jenny Koch
KinNET Manager
Catholic Charities, Denver,
Colorado

Five years ago, Catholic Charities began partnering with Kinship providers, the Denver Mayor's office, Denver councilman Hiawatha Davis and the Denver Department of Human Services to begin providing support groups and case management services to grandparents who were raising their grandchildren. As a result of this group's success and the increased interest in support group services, the

communicating issues to other Kinship providers involved in the program.

Although our agency carries the name Catholic Charities, we serve and reach out to people of all faiths. Our participants are primarily grandparents over the age of 50 who are raising their grandchildren but we also serve people raising their nieces, nephews, cousins and siblings. We primarily provide resource and referral services to our Kinship providers. However, our services also include educational seminars on topics requested by caregivers;

Although our agency carries the name Catholic Charities, we serve and reach out to people of all faiths. Our participants are primarily grandparents over the age of 50 who are raising their grandchildren but we also serve people raising their nieces, nephews, cousins and siblings.

program was expanded to include four additional groups serving the Denver Metro area. A "Mentoring Committee" was also developed and is made up of members from each of the five support groups. The Mentoring Committee helps guide the program; is involved in its decision making process; and assists the agency in

case management services; and crisis intervention. We also assist our kinship providers in obtaining custody and guardianship of their kin, finding affordable housing, finding affordable child care and respite care, food, clothing, counseling, educational services for their children, senior services and with issues pertaining to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.



We also assist our Kinship providers in advocacy efforts. Each year the Catholic Charities Kinship program organizes a day in which Kinship providers and their elected officials have the opportunity to discuss issues impacting Kinship Care. In addition to inviting state legislators, Denver City officials are included in discussions. Kinship providers decide which issues will be addressed during this event and a fact sheet is developed and sent to those officials who are invited to the event. Throughout the planning we coach Kinship providers as to how to contact their elected officials and how to address the issues of concern with them.

As we look to the future, we are very excited at the prospect of expanding our program to serve other counties in addition to Denver. We have begun working with community service providers in other parts of Colorado and are confident that these partnerships will prove to be very beneficial. We will be working with our partners to better market our services and to outreach to more families and other communities.

For more information contact Jenny Koch at 303-742-0823 or jkoch@catholiccharitiesden.com.

AGE CONCERN NORTHERN IRELAND- BUILDING INTERGENERATIONAL UNDERSTANDING ACROSS FAITH COMMUNITIES

By David McConnell,
Age Concern Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is small. The total population is 1.7 million and it is 90 miles north/south and 120 miles east/west at its widest points. Although there is widespread and increasing segregation of housing, in both public and private sectors, protestant and catholic communities often live adjacent to each other. Age Concern Northern Ireland is working to bring together older and younger people from across these communities.

While the work has been across faith communities, it has generally not focused on the area of faith as such. The vehicles used include, sport, culture, the environment, history and information technology. We believe that sharing skills and experience in a mutually respectful context weakens stereotypical attitudes and behaviour, encouraging participants to see other people as individuals.

Two of the cross-community projects involved young people whose challenging behaviour has led to them being placed outside the mainstream school system, in special units. They are the young people many older people fear or would avoid. One of the aims of the project was "to address issues of stereotyping and prejudice involving different age groups from an intergenerational and cross-community perspective."

Careful planning by the partner organisations was crucial to the success of the projects as was a positive and enjoyable experience when young and old met for the first time. Young and old participants reported:

"I couldn't believe we were all different ages."

"They are a terrific bunch of children."

"I think it is useful because it makes you more tolerant towards young people."

"I enjoy talking to the children. We see them differently here than in the streets."

"I find the project good because sometimes a month or two would pass and I wouldn't have an opportunity to speak to a young person."

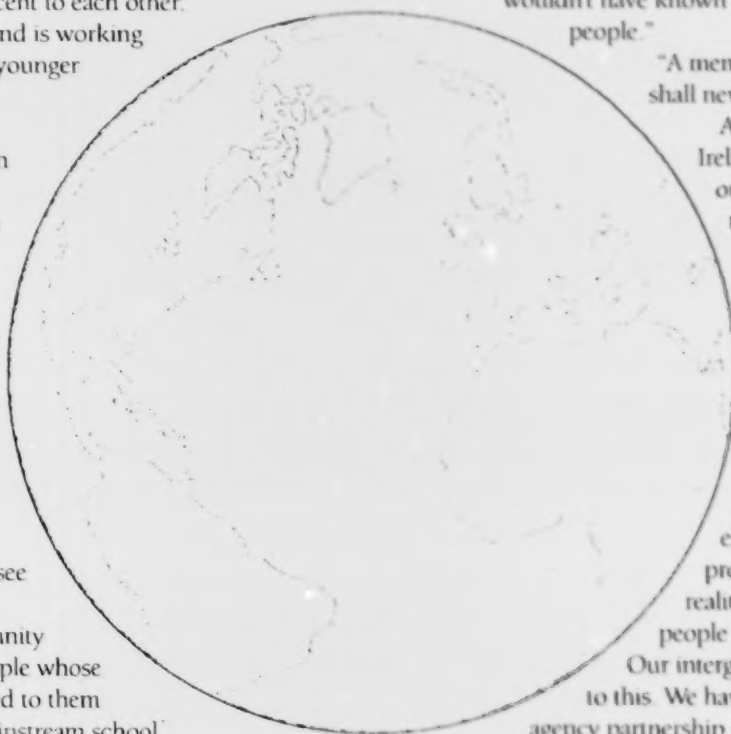
"I find it good because before I took part in the project I wouldn't have known how to talk to older people."

"A memorable experience, one I shall never forget."

Age Concern Northern Ireland's work on behalf of our older community aims to address all the major issues to ensure that quality of life continues to change for the better. We have been particularly concerned to challenge the dominant paradigm that depicts ageing as a kind of disease. An important element in our strategy is to promote the image (and the reality behind it) of older people as active involved citizens.

Our intergenerational work is central to this. We have established a multi-agency partnership to co-ordinate and support all the intergenerational work being developed by a wide range of organisations in Northern Ireland.

Further information on this work will be available on our website, which is still being developed, early in 2003, (www.ageconcernni.org). In the meantime if anyone wishes to contact me you can do by writing to Dr David McConnell, Age Concern Northern Ireland, 3 Lower Crescent, Belfast BT7 1NR or by email to dmcconnell@ageconcernni.org.



INTERGENERATION DAY CONNECTS ALL AGES COAST TO COAST

By Lisa Jill Ruth,
Executive Director of Intergeneration
Foundation

From an intergenerational relay race in San Diego, California to educational seminars on legal issues of kinship care in Virginia, organizations across America celebrated Intergeneration Day/Activities Week from September 30 through October 6, 2002.

Intergeneration Day/Activities Week is a national time to connect generations through celebration, communication and education. Organizations recognizing the benefits of intergenerational relationships have used their own expertise to plan and incorporate Intergeneration Day/Activities Week in their programs and annual events. Participating in Intergeneration Day/Activities Week links intergenerational organizations together as we connect generations in our own communities and families. This year events were held in fourteen states. Intergeneration Day has the endorsement or participation from over 40 organizations nationally, and the governors of 26 states.

Several organizations nationally used Intergeneration Day to expand their educational services on intergenerational issues. The Hawaii Intergenerational Network celebrated by sponsoring a symposium entitled Making a Generation Connection over Intergeneration Activities Week. Workshops were held focusing on the complex relationships between elders and younger generations. The Mountain Empire Older Citizens, Inc. in Big Stone Gap, Virginia offered seminars on The Legal Issues of Kinship Care and on the Emotional Issues Affecting Children in conjunction with the Big Stone Gap Chapter of the Virginia AARP and the Appalachian Regional Community



Head Start. In Downer's Grove Township, Illinois, grandparents attended seminars on the Joys and Challenges of Modern Grandparenting, while the Intergenerational School with Case Western University Center for Aging and Health held a conference on Successful Aging through the Life Span: Intergenerational Issues in Health. The Whitehall Public Library in Pennsylvania held an Intergenerational Reading Day, and The Gardens at St. Elizabeth's in Denver, Colorado invited a children's story author to give a presentation to their senior residents and children from the community.

Celebratory events were also well attended. Highlights included a traditional celebration of fall with a hayride and hot dog roast at the Association of Lifelong Learners at Alpena Community College in Michigan and cooking contests at the Kinship Family Center in San Bernardino, California and at the Save the Children/Foster Grandparent Program in Arizona. Other events included musical presentations, carnivals, tea parties, ice-cream socials, and family fun evenings.



Communication building events included a project by the Pikes Peak Library District in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where young adults were matched with a senior volunteer to record the senior's thoughts and recollections of the post-depression 30's. In Brunson, South Carolina, a town heritage project between grade school children and senior townspeople, concentrated on the history and tradition of the town's churches and cemeteries.

Intergeneration Day/Activities Week has been

established to work with intergenerational programs by establishing a national campaign to bring attention to intergenerational issues. Make your plans now to include Intergeneration Day Activities Week in your annual calendar of events for 2003 and beyond. Next year Intergeneration Day will be on Sunday, October 5, 2003, with Intergeneration Activities Week beginning on September 29, 2003.

For more information on Intergeneration Day/Activities Week, to register your 2003 event, or report on your 2002 event, please contact Lisa Ruth, at 719-282-8190, by email at ruth@intergenerationday.org or visit our web site www.intergenerationday.org.



PAUL WELLSTONE

Generations United and the nation mourns the loss of one of the most outspoken, consistent, advocates for children and seniors. Senator Paul Wellstone attended and spoke at GU Capitol Hill briefings and promoted the intergenerational message throughout his time in Congress. His fierce commitment to bettering the lives of our country's youngest and oldest will not be forgotten. Senator Wellstone, his wife and daughter along with three campaign staff and two pilots died in a plane crash in October.

NEW WEB-BASED RECRUITMENT SYSTEM AVAILABLE TO GU MEMBERS

SeniorCorps.org is a new web-based recruitment system that matches Americans age 55 and over with volunteer opportunities that help local non-profits, public agencies, and faith-based organizations carry out their missions. It is supported by Senior Corps, part of the Corporation for National and Community Service, that promotes senior service by engaging national nonprofit organizations to use the skills and talents of America's senior population in meaningful volunteer opportunities. Senior Corps also administers a service network that offers more than half a million older persons volunteer opportunities through the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and RSVP programs.



GU members are invited to list quality volunteer opportunities for older adults available with your agency on SeniorCorps.org. Examples can include, but are not limited to the following: youth mentoring, one-on-one or small group tutoring, or working with youth on community service projects. By listing your volunteer opportunities on SeniorCorps.org, interested older adult volunteers will connect with you directly through the Internet. If you are a GU member and interested in participating in this new recruitment opportunity, please contact GU at 202-638-1263 or gu@gu.org.



INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

By Jaia Peterson
Public Policy Director

The results of the November election pose new challenges and opportunities for intergenerational public policy. The new Congress will be setting their agenda for the work of the next two years. Intergenerational advocates will be challenged to assure that policies that are friendly to older and younger people rank high among priorities.

Programs like Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and the Child Care and Development Block Grant are likely to get attention, but will require strong educational efforts to assure that any changes during reauthorization help reduce child poverty and are supportive to relative caregivers. Other issues

such as the reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, restoration of full funding to the Social Service Block Grant and housing for grandparents and other relatives will require well-coordinated, persistent grassroots efforts to be recognized as priorities by this Congress.

TANF AND CHILD CARE

Among the proposed changes in TANF are increased work requirements for recipients. Many remaining on the welfare rolls are likely to have severe barriers to employment that cannot be easily fixed. Others, because they are caring for children or other family members who have disabilities, are really working but their work is not recognized. Intergenerational advocates

should educate their members of Congress on these issues and urge them to recognize the work of parents and caregiver providing substantial care for a child or family member with a disability as activities that satisfy work requirements. In addition more funding for child care will be necessary to support the large numbers of parents and caregivers who are being required to return to work. More information on this issue is available by contacting the Center for Law and Social Policy at 202-906-8000 or visiting www.clasp.org.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)

After the May 2002 introduction of the Citizen Service Act in the House and statements from the administration calling reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service a priority, many intergenerational advocates were looking forward to smooth passage of this legislation which supports Senior Corps programs. However, key House leaders and members who object to programs where the federal government provides funds for volunteer activity, kept the

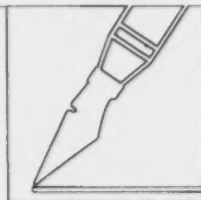
bill from reaching the floor for a vote. Senate plans to introduce similar legislation were also stalled. Despite these barriers, there is strong bi-partisan support for the program, but members of Congress will only make it a priority if there is a clear message from their constituents that it is important. If you support reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, contact your member of congress and tell them to make reauthorization a priority or visit <http://cw2k.capweb.net/cwla/letterstate.cfm> to send a letter to your member of Congress.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) provides flexible funding to states for a wide range of services to people of all ages. During a time when states are facing increasingly tight budgets, SSBG is especially critical to provide services such as child and adult protective services, services to people with disabilities, meals on wheels, transportation and child care. Funding for this essential program has been increasingly cut over the last several years by over \$1 billion. Intergenerational

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

If you would like to receive timely legislative updates and alerts about what you can do to help pass intergenerational legislation, please contact Jaia Peterson by emailing jpeterson@gu.org or calling 202-638-1263.



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FAITH-BASED HABITAT TAKES ITS HAMMER ON THE ROAD



By Terence Kane
Public Policy Assistant

Most people do not easily place senior citizens in RVs and college students on spring break together in a word association game. Thanks to help of Habitat for Humanity, the two unique groups now volunteer their time together to build homes for the poor. Habitat's Collegiate Challenge program invites students to trade in their spring break sunbathing oil for a hammer and join a Habitat work site led by members of the RV Care-A-Vanners. Remarkably, this spring some 11,000 students across the country will participate in the program.

The RV Care-A-Vanners are not the typical retirees many Americans picture riding around in RVs traveling from gift shop to gift shop. These vivacious seniors travel together in groups of ten vehicles going to different build sites lending a



Photo by Alex Harris

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advocates need to educate Congress on the critical role this funding plays in the lives of our youngest and oldest citizens. Restoring SSBG to \$2.8 billion would help restore many valuable services that have been cut over the last decade.

LEGACY- HOUSING FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING CHILDREN

LEGACY- Living Equitable: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth is a bill designed to provide safe and affordable housing to grandparents and other relatives raising children. While LEGACY was making considerable and consistent progress throughout the 107th Congress, changing priorities related to the pending war in Iraq and Homeland security pushed

many domestic issues like housing to the back-burner near the end of the session. House leadership failed to bring the omnibus housing bill (H.R. 3995) to the floor for a vote before the election. This bill included many of the provisions of the LEGACY bill and other vital housing for families and seniors. The LEGACY bill's original Republican co-sponsor and long-time supporter of intergenerational work, Connie Morella from Maryland was not re-elected. GU will be seeking additional bi-partisan support for the bill for reintroduction in the 108th Congress.

For up-to-date information on this and other legislation relevant to intergenerational programs, visit the legislative alert section of the GU web site at www.gu.org

hand to local affiliates. Led by Jack and Lois Wolters, the Care-a-Vanners began as an informal bunch of RV owners known as the RV gypsies. Eventually as the Care-a-Vanners they grew in popularity, Habitat for Humanity asked the couples to start an office at Habitat's Americus, Georgia headquarters. Currently there are around 1,000 active members of the Care-A-Vanners. The group accepts people of all building skill levels. The only requirement is an RV and even then some participants just pitch a tent outside their car.

The RV Care-A-Vanners involvement with younger people is not limited to the Collegiate Challenge. Local affiliates, responsible for the workforce at each site contact the Care-A-Vanners office and alert them to openings. Many of these affiliates include college and universities, who have welcomed the older Americans to their site. Other organizations such as VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) which requires volunteers to give one year of service in a low-income area have joined with the Care-A-Vanners.

Habitat for Humanity International's extraordinary success is well-known throughout the world. Since 1976, Habitat has built over 125,000 homes for families at no profit and sold them at no interest to the purchaser. Many attribute this staggering achievement to Habitat's philosophy to the "Theology of the Hammer". The "Theology of the Hammer" allows that people of all faiths embrace the inherent goodness in building homes for poor people in

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SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CREATIVE SUPPORT



By Cara Goldstein

Coordinator, National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

What exactly does supplemental services mean?

For many grandparent- and other relative- caregivers across the country, assistance provided under the broad category of "supplemental services" has given them the support they need to raise their relative children, whose parents are unable or unwilling to do so.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP), created in the fall of 2000, authorizes funding for five categories of support services to family caregivers. Categories of services include:

information and referral; assistance; individual and group counseling services; respite care and supplemental services. The language for each category is written to be flexible and respond to the needs of the caregivers in the area being served. The fifth category, supplemental services, is particularly broad and can be utilized to provide a wide range of services needed by grandparent and other relative caregivers. It is not defined in the law and will not be further defined by the Administration on Aging



Photo by Marybeth Burkholder

(AoA). The intent is for this category to be extremely flexible, although it can only be used on a limited basis, not as an ongoing source of funding for a specific program. For many grandparent and other relative caregivers, this category of support may be the only vehicle to address their unique needs.

Among the types of assistance that are being provided under the category of supplemental services are the following: legal services, transportation for support group meetings or for caregiver's errands, meals and clothing, housekeeping services, home repairs and modifications, as well as supplies and athletic costs for children. Although many supplemental services may most logically be provided on the local level, statewide activities also should be considered. The following are examples of several states that have

developed innovative programs using these funds:

ILLINOIS

Northwestern Illinois Area Agency on Aging (AAA) is committed to providing legal assistance to the families through its current legal service provider, Prairie State Legal Services. The AAA offers legal assistance to kinship caregivers who need help accessing school enrollment and public benefits and obtaining guardianships or adopting the related children they are raising. The AAA has also held several legal assistance workshops for grandparents and other relatives raising children led by an attorney and a behavioral health specialist. The lawyers offer one-on-one "legal check-ups" for caregivers at the end of each workshop and offer individual recommendations.

In addition, the Northwest Illinois AAA has set up an Emergency Fund to financially assist relative caregivers that cannot afford needed items for their families such as school supplies, clothing, diapers and beds. The fund may also be used to assist caregivers pursuing legal options such as guardianship. For more information, contact Eric Hoffman, Community Services Specialist, at 815-226-4901 or 800-542-8402 or niaaa@nwilaaa.org

MICHIGAN

Senior Volunteers and the Region IV AAA in Southwest Michigan provide "Family Fun" events four to five times a year during which caregivers and children from all three AAA counties participate. The senior volunteers, "Family Friends", help staff these events. In the past year, there have been programs at local nature centers, a children's museum and the 7th Annual State-Wide Kinship Care Resource Center Picnic in Lansing with over 2,000 relative caregivers across Michigan attending. Family Fun events always include a meal, attendance incentives and mileage reimbursement. For more information about these

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GU's NATIONAL CENTER RECEIVES SUPPORT TO PROVIDE TWO MORE YEARS OF INNOVATION AND RESOURCES



GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children will continue to work in partnership with the Administration on Aging (AoA) to provide training and technical assistance to members of the aging network (Area Agencies on Aging, State Units on Aging, and Tribes) and other community service providers. GU's National Center is one of eleven projects of national significance that were awarded two-year innovative grants from AoA in September 2002. GU's Center will build on its current work to support the implementation of the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and its inclusion of grandparents and other relatives raising children. GU will partner closely with many national organizations, such as the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the Brookdale Foundation Group, the National Association of State Units on Aging, and AARP, on many of the Center's initiatives.

One of the first initiatives the Center will launch this fiscal year will be to survey the aging network, along with

primary health care providers, in order to assess the major training and technical assistance needs of the professionals who are serving these families through the NFCSP. Subsequent materials and trainings will be designed to fill the gaps that are identified through the survey. Other efforts this year will include increasing the number of expert trainers in its network and deploying them to conduct trainings around the country, producing a training manual for professionals, and holding a number of online chats facilitated by experts.

During the past year, in addition to training professionals at the local, state, and national level, the Center produced many new technical assistance materials. Four new fact sheets on the needs of, and services available to, grandparents and other relatives raising children have been produced and are available on GU's web site at www.gu.org/proj&tofaqs as well as in hard copy upon request. Center staff also conducted a literature review and completed a comprehensive annotated bibliography, which will be available online soon. Several online chats were held, with experts facilitating, on topics such as respite care, support groups, and legal services as supplemental services under the NFCSP.

In addition to providing training and technical assistance to the aging network and other community service providers on how to support kinship care families through the NFCSP, GU's Center serves as the umbrella for all of GU's initiatives concerning these families. GU's Center continues to track state laws and programs and provide technical assistance to states that wish to replicate them, educate federal policy makers about these families, provide mini-grants through its KinNET and Mental Health/RAPP initiative, and maintain up-to-date and accurate information on grandparents and other relatives raising children on the GU web site.

For more information, or to share information about a model policy or programs in your state or locality, contact Cara Goldstein, at 202-638-1263 or at cgoldstein@gu.org

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events, contact Camellia Pisegna, Director, Senior Volunteer Programs, at 616-983-7058 or pisegnac@state.mi.us.

TENNESSEE

The Upper Cumberland Development District AAA in Tennessee is coordinating the provision of services through a variety of local agencies. For example, the attorney funded through Title III of the Older Americans Act is providing legal services to the families. The lawyer provides education on custody, adoption, public benefits, and other legal issues, and will provide representation in some individual cases. The families will also have

access to mediation services, legal seminars, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) services.

In addition, the Area Agency on Aging and Disability (AAAD) is arranging for staff to participate in non-legal services and assist with special events including picnics, holiday gatherings. For more information, contact Nancy Peace, AAA Director, at 931-432-4111 or npeace@ucdd.org.

For more information, contact Generations United at 202-638-1263 to obtain a copy of the supplemental services fact sheet or visit our website at www.gu.org.

News from the STATES

MARYLAND

The Maryland Intergenerational Coalition hosted a symposium on "Getting Started — the Nuts and Bolts of Intergenerational Programs" last September in Towson, Maryland. Jaja Peterson, Public Policy Director of Generations United, gave the keynote address and the Coalition presented its first Weinberg Foundation grant awards.

Sue Ward, Secretary of the Maryland Department of Aging, announced Governor Glendenning's proclamation, naming October 6 Maryland Intergenerational Day.

In addition to the keynote presentation, a panel presented information on successful intergenerational programs in Maryland. Austin Heyman, founder of Interages in Montgomery County, Hazel Ricker, Director of RSVP in the Lower Shore Counties, and Dave Williams, Chief Division of Seniors Centers and Community Services of Baltimore County's Department of Aging, provided examples and information on a wide variety of intergenerational programs.

In her keynote remarks, Peterson identified the four main types of intergenerational programs:

1) old serving the young; 2) young serving the old; 3) old and young serving together; and 4) young and old under the same roof. She outlined key points necessary to consider when planning a new program including tips for recruiting older adults; the importance of administrative and staff buy-in; the value of community involvement; funding tips; and the importance of continuous, applied evaluation. The Coalition unveiled its new information booklet on "How to Start Intergenerational Programs in Communities" which is available to Marylanders.

For more information on the Maryland Intergenerational Coalition, call 410-727-6290

MISSISSIPPI

Mississippi Retirement Community: Transforming America's Long Term Care

The movement to transform long-term care for the nation's frail seniors has begun in a Southern town, perhaps best known as the birthplace of Elvis

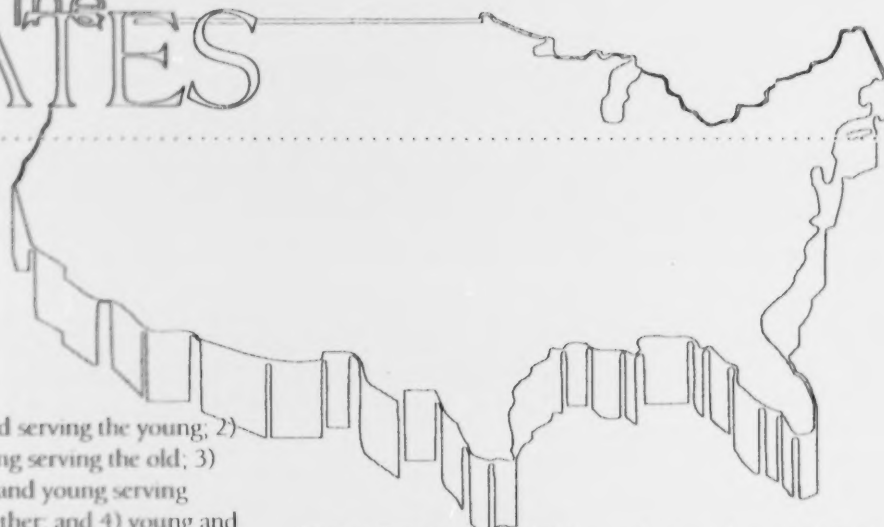
Presley, Tupelo, Mississippi. Today, Traceway Retirement Community officials and local civic leaders broke ground on the first of 12 Green Houses or small homes for frail elders not far from its main campus.

The Green House Project™, brainchild of The Eden Alternative's founder and CEO Dr. William Thomas is assisting in the planning of these first Green Houses in the nation. The time has come to reinvent the long-term care environment in America for the 21st century," Thomas told the groundbreaking audience. "Traceway is leading the way to a new kind of environment for our elders. It will be warm. It will be smart. And, it will be green. Our elders deserve to live in Green Houses and they will want to."

The first Green Houses will be small (10-person) homes where people requiring skilled nursing services can live and receive

the care they need. Each of the houses will be linked to Traceway's health care delivery network and employ The Eden Alternative™ care and management concepts. Over time, the plan is to transition the residents of Cedars Health Center, currently housing some 140 residents, to Green Houses.

Green Houses, which are also planned in Utica, NY, Portage, MI and Lincoln, NE, make extensive use of assistive technology and provide skilled care at a similar cost to the traditional nursing home. However, they will not look or feel at all like the medical institution most people are familiar with and will also be staffed and managed differently. According to Thomas, a small number of staff will share ongoing responsibilities for each Green House, allowing for maximum autonomy and warmth. Each of the houses



will use smart, but unobtrusive technology such as ceiling-attached lifts that allow residents to move easily from their bed to their wheelchairs or bathrooms. And, the houses will be green, meaning that they will be "filled with the laughter of children, the growth of green plants, and the presence of animals."

Traceway Retirement Community is part of United Methodist Senior Services of Mississippi. UMSSM serves over 1600 residents on 11 campuses and more than 600 with its Senior Services Outreach Programs. The Traceway campus has 180 independent living units, 52 assisted living apartments and a 140-bed skilled nursing facility. For more information contact Scott Parkin at 703-437-1339 or sparkin@edenalt.com

GENERATIONS UNITED MISSION

To foster intergenerational collaboration on public policy and programs to improve the lives of children, youth and the elderly.

VISION:

A society that values all generations.

CORE BELIEFS:

We believe the time has come for advocates for children, youth and older persons to work together to build and support a common agenda. Each generation has unique strengths to help meet the need of another. Efforts to create more decent societies rest on the interdependence of generations – past, living, and still to come. Further we believe:

- *Intergenerational collaboration will unite and improve our communities*
- *Every person, younger and older, is a resource and adds value*
- *Public policy should meet the needs of all generations*
- *Resources are more wisely used when they connect the generations rather than separate them*
- *Discrimination in any form limits a person's potential to contribute to the development of their community*
- *Grandparents and other relatives who step forward to raise children are providing an invaluable service to their families and our country.*

NEW YORK

A Tribute to Grandparents Raising Their Grandchildren: Thank-You

*You had the courage to start all over again
Raising your grandchildren at an age when
You thought you might retire, travel and rest
But the children needed caregivers and they needed the best.*

*Some came to you in pampers and most came in tears
Needing nurturing and someone who cares.
Others came as toddlers- exploring the world on the run
You couldn't believe this happened – after you thought that you
were done.*

*But we are here to honor you who have done so much
To change the lives of children with your special touch
We thank you grandparents, we thank you once, we thank you
twice
And know you are appreciated for the rest of your life.
Thank you grandparents.*

Rolanda Pyle – September 2002

This excerpt from a tribute to grandparent caregivers of New York City was just one of the highlights in a September ceremony sponsored by the Grandparent Resource Center of the New York City Department for the Aging. The ceremony was held to acknowledge and congratulate grandparent caregivers for their outstanding devotion to raising their grandchildren. Grandparents who attended were treated to a full course luncheon, greetings from city officials, and chances to win prizes, such as dinner for two at TGI Fridays and tickets to a Broadway play. Each caregiver also received a bag full of donated goodies to take home. The ceremony included interpretive dance, live music, and a special tribute from a grandchild who serenaded her grandmother with "Because You Loved Me."

The highlight of the event was a presentation given by a granddaughter who is a recovering drug addict and, thanks to her grandmother, was able to go through drug rehabilitation while her grandmother took care of her children. The woman has now resumed responsibility for her children – a happy ending that most grandparent caregivers only dream of.

For more information contact Rolanda Pyle at rpyle@aging.nyc.gov or 212-442-1094

MIDWEST REUNION

By Bard Lindeman

Humorist Erma Bombeck wrote it was easier to stage a coronation than bring her family together for a reunion. So, when five of my six grandchildren gathered recently in suburban Chicago, I knew this was a command performance.

Our impromptu reunion brought two red-heads, ages 15 and 11, from Miami, FL to join Oak Park, IL cousins, ages seven, three and 15 months. Thinking about these disparate junior people I scribbled in my notebook: "They are as different as ice cream flavors. Here's a pistachio; there's a rum raisin."

School was out, and it was time for Florida girls Melissa and Stephanie to have a Midwestern experience, complete with Chicago pizza. Joining cousins Natalie and Zane and baby Geneva, this adventure turned into a three-day Survival Test for Grandpa.

Day one (a Saturday) called for hiking wooded trails that seemingly only went straight up; Sunday was given to downtown shopping and sightseeing, the last gasp (Monday) involved aquatics at a Water Park where, on this Veterans Day holiday, wet bodies were wall-to-wall. Screaming, incidentally, was mandatory.

Because the women of the two host families work long hours, our caring chauffeur, sandwich maker, dryer of tears, wiper of noses, and nonstop Master of Ceremonies was freelance screenwriter Leslie W. Lindeman, oldest of my three adult progeny. In a sidebar dialogue, Les asked: "Who knows what they'll remember about all this in 10 years?"

It doesn't matter, we agreed. What matters is they had good times together...as cousins, kids, members of a three-generation family...one doing its best to occasionally come together, in real-life experiences, meaning: sharing meals, shooting baskets, jumping rope, playing a Monopoly-like board game (appropriately titled: 'Chicago') late into the night, long after certain adults were mercifully in bed.

What also counts is the cousins sang songs, shared ketchup, blew up balloons, took turns holding and then amusing little Geneva, making funny faces. Yes, they squabbled, and made up; they took each other's photograph, dealt with what life has handed them ("Mommy's always working!"), and when they rolled down a leaf-strewn hill, landing in a jumbo pile of fallen leaves, their laughter was music to a grandfather's ears.

As the newsman, you watch and wait, anticipating that break, a moment when, perhaps, your lead sentence happens



Bard Lindeman enjoying a swim with his granddaughter, Mandy.

in front of you. My critical moment came on the sidewalk that first mild night, outside Uncle Greg and Aunt Janet's 100-year-old, Oak Park home. Visiting cousin Stephanie, our reflective, doe-eyed 11-year-old Floridian, moved close to say, softly: "I don't care if we see snow...this already is a great vacation, just having my family all around me."

Bard Lindeman is a nationally syndicated columnist, member of the GU editorial board, and author of "Be an Outrageous Older Man". For more information visit: <http://beoutrageous.com>.

LEGACY RECEIVES SPECIAL COMMENDATION IN THE PRISM AWARDS

The powerful award-winning documentary film, *Legacy* has received special commendation in the TV Documentary or News Magazine Series Episode or Special of the 2001 Prism Awards. This award is added to the list of a 2001 Academy Award and 2002 Emmy nomination. Congratulations go out to producer, director and writer Tod Lending for his efforts as he told the heart-wrenching story of the Collins family over five years of their lives after the death of a young family member. This inspiring film brings to light the value of intergenerational relationships and the important role of grandparents who help to raising their grandchildren. *Legacy* aired on PBS stations around the country on November 29th. The PBS website highlights information about the film and Generations United LEGACY bill, a piece of legislation inspired by the film that would help provide safe and affordable housing to grandparent- and other relative-headed families.

Established in 1997, the PRISM Awards honors creative contributions that are not only powerfully entertaining, but proactively address substance abuse and addiction. The Entertainment Industries Council, Inc. (EIC) annually presents the syndicated television show, PRISM Awards, for outstanding efforts in the accurate depiction of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and addiction in film, television, interactive media, and comic book entertainment.

ENHANCING RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT THROUGH KINNET AND THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE



By Caroline E. Crocoll
KinNET Manager

From a child's perspective, the world is a very big place indeed. Imagine what it's like to be surrounded by people and things, often much larger than yourself. What do children see when they look up from their place in the world? For millions of children across the United States, the view is less than idyllic. The lives of so many children are dominated by parental substance abuse, incarceration, HIV/AIDS, poverty, and even death. When parents in these situations can no longer care for their children, grandparents or other relative caregivers often step in to fill the void.

Unfortunately, the challenges faced by relative caregivers can be physically and emotionally overwhelming. Research has shown that relative caregivers frequently suffer from stress-related illnesses, such as depression, diabetes, hypertension, insomnia, and gastric distress. Additionally, recent studies indicate that stress may be compounded by the fact that children being raised by relative caregivers, including those in the foster care system, exhibit a wide variety of physical, behavioral, and emotional problems to a greater degree than the general population of children.

Support groups can alleviate caregivers' stress, improve health, and help to stabilize families. Many caregivers express the idea that just knowing there are others in the same situation is helpful. Research shows that by offering caregivers a place to share information, solutions, and feelings with peers going through the same experiences, support groups can help children and families tremendously.

Relative caregiver support groups sponsored by Generations United's KinNET Project and Behavioral Health Initiative are experiencing numerous successes, and sites report regularly on the many wonderful benefits experienced by caregivers and children. To date, over 2,000 caregivers have been served by GU-funded KinNET support groups,



Photo by Lynn Vidulich

*Support groups can alleviate
caregivers' stress, improve health,
and help to stabilize families.
Many caregivers express the idea
that just knowing there are others in
the same situation is helpful.*

they can grow to respect and admire.

with 10 newly funded KinNET sites gearing up their projects for the coming year. Additionally, over the past 5 years, GU's Behavioral Health Initiative has assisted thousands of individuals and families through caregiver support groups at behavioral health facilities across the nation. Newly funded sites are developing or expanding relative caregiver support groups in California, Maine, and New York.

We are only beginning to see the effects of these important projects and in the coming months, articles in this section of the newsletter will provide helpful tips, such as best practices for developing and sustaining caregiver support groups, success stories from sites around the country, networking opportunities and much more.

Participation in support groups, such as those promoted by KinNET and the Behavioral Health Initiative, foster stable, healthy environments for children and families. Through projects like these, children being raised by relative caregivers may look up from their place in the world to find loving smiles, open arms, or perhaps a helping hand from someone

The KinNET Project, funded through the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the only national initiative seeking to establish a network of support groups for relatives caring for kin in foster care. The Behavioral Health Initiative, funded through the Center for Mental Health Services, partners Generations United with the Brookdale Foundation Group to replicate its local Relatives As Parent Program (RAPP) model in behavioral health facilities around the country. For more information on the KinNET Project and the Behavioral Health Initiative, visit GU's website at www.gu.org or call 202-638-1263.

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ASBURY PLACE- BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN THE GENERATIONS

By Renee Godin

Activities Program Coordinator, Asbury Place

"When can we see our Grandfriends again?" "Is Tony coming today?" "Can I carry Helen's coat today?" "Can we set up the extra chairs today?" "I feel so happy inside" "Can we do this again?" We want to clean the room today. Our Grandfriends are coming tomorrow!" "Do they have to leave so soon?" This was awesome!" These are the words of the student participants of Grandfriends, a new intergenerational endeavor in Pennsylvania which unites residents of Asbury Place a non-profit long-term care facility for people with Alzheimer's and dementia and students at Dormont Elementary near Pittsburgh.

Providing opportunities for both generations to develop positive relationships, the Grandfriends program promotes the development of self-esteem and purpose for its participants. It serves as a great motivator and has enhanced the learning and performance of the children.

"Community outreach is an important goal that needs to be fostered more in our society and it is best to instill opportunities early on," states Mrs. McAllister, kindergarten teacher at Dormont and co-developer of Grandfriends. Emphasizing Dormont's role in this regard, the school principal Mr. Schevick explains, "We like to think of Dormont Elementary as an all encompassing school in the Keystone Oaks school district welcoming all age brackets."

The activities in the Grandfriends Program are based on the skills and concepts in the Kindergarten curriculum while respecting the strengths and needs of the residents. Many areas of growth and development are considered while activities are planned, allowing for the holistic developments of the child while serving the emotional, social, cognitive and perceptual needs of the residents.

"It is important to develop intergenerational relationships," said Mrs. McAllister. "As the program was

initiated, some concerns were raised and proactive steps were taken to educate the children first as to the characteristics, strengths, needs and health concerns of some of the residents. After the first activity . . . the groups of 21 youngsters were eager to help prepare for future visits and talked of their new Grandfriends often. If you could

witness the love in their eyes, with outstretched arms and see the interactions between these two fine groups, it would bring a tear to your eye, as it did on several occasions to the coordinators."

Among the school year's program activities Grandfriends participated in "Fabric Day," which was an introduction to a trimester science theme in the kindergarten where groups learned the properties, uses and names of several fabric samples. This "hands-on" activity was a meaningful exchange and the groups later decorated fabric



squares that were eventually woven into quilt. This lasting symbol of friendships is thanks to the participants, volunteers and directors of the program. The quilt was displayed at Dormont Elementary's 1st Annual Art Show and was dedicated to the memory of one of the residents who passed away during the late winter.

In May the program had a grand finale with "Planting Day" at Asbury Place. The children and their families gathered their sun hats, shovels, and seedlings and had a wonderful time planting flowers and vegetables in the common outdoor area at Asbury followed by a fabulous, memory-filled picnic and BBQ.

The grandfriends program was a great success and we look forward to another year of work bridging the gap between generations.

For more information contact Renee Godin Activities Program Coordinator ADPC 412-571-5667 Rgodin@asburyheights.org.

DOROT: GENERATIONS HELPING GENERATIONS



By Mary Dougal
DOROT, Public Relations

The great Jewish philosopher Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel said, "The test of a people is how it behaves towards the old." Teaching the young to value the elderly is central to DOROT's mission. A nonprofit organization whose name means "generations" in Hebrew, DOROT's motto "Generations Helping Generations" has guided its service to the elderly for 27 years.

Started in 1976 by a group of students on Manhattan's Upper West Side, DOROT's 18 programs provide food, housing, education, and companionship to more than 10,000 seniors and their caregivers each year, and unite old and young into a caring community. DOROT's legacy is an intergenerational volunteer corps, over 9,000 strong, the largest in the United States serving the elderly. DOROT has become a model for volunteer-based senior programs nationwide and is dedicated to enhancing the lives of the elderly by providing them with physical and emotional support.

"DOROT has found that the best way to teach young people to respect and value the elderly is by example and early involvement," said Vivian Fenster Ehrlich, DOROT's Executive Director. "Our volunteers include children who are as young as two years old!"

DOROT offers a myriad of volunteer opportunities for youth ages 2 to 18 including service-learning projects for schools, synagogues and youth organizations. Families, synagogues, school groups, and teens visit the homebound and frail elderly, deliver holiday food packages and groceries, and make birthday cards for homebound seniors. DOROT's programs provide parents the opportunity to be positive role models and to teach their children the importance and joy of helping the elderly. It is not unusual for DOROT volunteers to span three generations of a family. "We have learned that not only does this strengthen families and teach values, it creates a new generation of DOROT volunteers,"



"By participating in this course, kids get turned on to the joy of being with old people."

said Judith Turner, MA, EdM,

director, DOROT Family and

Youth Services.

commented Ehrlich.

Among DOROT's many youth programs is a course on "Judaism, Aging and the Community." Students examine Jewish tradition and history about aging, study the aging process, and experience "what it would feel like to be old" by doing by simulation exercises. Students are matched with a senior whom they visit eight times and hear their life stories. Students keep a journal and create an oral history project based on their visits.

"By participating in this course, kids get turned on to the joy of being with old people," said Judith Turner, MA, EdM, director, DOROT Family and Youth Services.

In the Jewish tradition, elders are honored for their wisdom. Rabbi Akiva taught that the Jewish people may be compared to a bird. Just as a bird cannot fly without wings, so, too we cannot do anything without our elders. This attitude permeates DOROT's work with the elderly. "While our volunteers perform a "mitzvah" (good deed) they are also enriched by their connections with our seniors," reflected Ehrlich.

Recently, the Generations Institute at DOROT was launched to provide replication kits, technical assistance and training for eldercare professionals.

"With an international aging explosion, we have an obligation to share our know-how and successful program models with other communities," commented Ehrlich.

For more information contact Judith Turner, MA, EdM, Director, DOROT Family and Youth Services at 212-769-2850 or jturner@dorotusa.org or visit www.dorotusa.org

SPIRIT OF GENERATIONS BRIDGES GAP BETWEEN YOUNG AND OLD



Intergenerational programming has been a part of the Lifelink mission since the organization's beginnings as an orphanage and home for the elderly 108 years ago. Founded by 13 pastors from predecessor denominations of the United Church of Christ, the home cared for older adults and children in an atmosphere of care, faith and love. Today, Lifelink's Head Start, foster-care, health-care and senior housing programs collaborate in intergenerational programs that continue the organization's intergenerational mission to foster stronger relationships across all generations.

One of Lifelink's innovative partnerships, Spirit of Generations, was developed to nurture intergenerational relationships among the African-American older adults in Lifelink's Chicago-area housing communities and the African-American youth in the foster-care program. "The goal of Spirit of Generations was to cultivate strong, interpersonal relationships between older adults and children, thereby instilling pride and understanding in youth who may not have a strong, value-driven background," said Robyn McBroom, Lifelink's intergenerational coordinator. "Particularly for African-American participants, intergenerational and spiritual programs help to restore and perpetuate a sense of extended kinship that has been an intrinsic part of the tradition of the black community and key to its survival through segregation, racism and other hardships. We interweave the intergenerational and the non-denominational spiritual process as a means of empowering young people and older adults, while perpetuating their African-American heritage and identity."

Participants work together to choose intergenerational activities and projects rooted in a spiritual approach and based on their collective interests and goals. They devise and implement intergenerational service projects, such as visiting the sick and homebound and making get well cards for those in area hospitals. "Through these outings and projects, the seniors and children shared stories and worked

One of Lifelink's innovative partnerships, Spirit of Generations, was developed to nurture intergenerational relationships among the African-American older adults in Lifelink's Chicago-area housing communities and the African-American youth in the foster-care program.

together, thereby establishing rewarding and fulfilling relationships," McBroom said. "They also built their self-esteem by reaching out to help others in need."

In addition, the program established joint retreats to bring residents from various Lifelink housing communities together, along with the children, to pray, worship and share in an atmosphere of non-denominational faith and spirituality. Several of the retreats are spiritually based, and many are modeled from an innovative curriculum entitled, "Stones of Promise: Celebrating the African-American Family." The program examines aspects of African-American life, past and present, to encourage discussion between the generations. "The purpose of this curriculum is to

encourage understanding, appreciation and celebration of the physical and spiritual relationships between past, present and future African-American families," said McBroom. "The older adults are encouraged to share about their upbringing and the challenges and joys they experienced. The children benefit from hearing the seniors reminisce – they ask many good and interesting

questions, which keeps the dialogue rich and meaningful."

The Spirit of Generations program met its goal to bridge the gap between the generations and establish lines of communication that bring about understanding, compassion and respect. "The most important outcome of this program is the exchange of wisdom from the seniors and energy from the youth, which fosters a sense of purpose, self-worth and camaraderie across the generations," said McBroom. "The two divergent age groups are able to share a wealth of talent and life experiences through the sharing of ideas, memories, activities and creativity." The program carries on at Lifelink through many of its other intergenerational programs, and maintains its strong spiritual approach to bridging the generations.

For more information contact Lifelink at 630-766-8800



photo by Marilyn Probe

GU WELCOMES NEW STAFF

Please join GU in welcoming Caroline Crocoll to the staff of Generations United.

CAROLINE CROCOLL

Caroline Crocoll joined Generations United's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children in August 2002 as the new KinNET Manager. Her responsibilities include coordinating the process of awarding mini-grants to agencies around the country to start caregiver support groups; conducting site visits; overseeing web-based services to the KinNET network; coordinating biannual conference calls; and providing other types of technical assistance, including publishing a biannual Network Bulletin. Additional responsibilities include overseeing GU's Relatives As Parents Program (RAPP) Behavioral Health Project.

Caroline comes to GU after serving with Western



Kentucky University's Consumer and Family Sciences Department where she taught courses in Family Relations and Interpersonal and Relationship Violence Awareness and Prevention. She also served as a consultant with Glenwood Research-Community Service Consulting, most recently collaborating on an assessment of program sustainability and resource leveraging in AmeriCorps Projects. Prior to completing her doctorate, Caroline spent four years with the Cooperative Extension Service at Texas A&M University where she developed youth and parenting programs with Texas Cooperative Extension's Family Development and Resource Management Unit. She is a former Jewell Taylor Fellow with the American Association for Family and Consumer Sciences and a National Service Fellow with the Corporation for National and Community Service.

Caroline is an Educational Gerontologist and has authored numerous publications in the United States and Europe, including a training resource guide for the Foster Grandparent Program. She holds a Ph.D. in Education from Virginia Commonwealth University, a Certificate in Aging Studies from the Medical College of Virginia, an M.S. in Counseling and Development from Long Island University, and a B.S. in Liberal Arts, majoring in Psychology, from the State University of New York at Albany.

PROGRAM UPDATE *continued from page 5*

on Aging and the Administration for Children and Families have discretionary grant programs that could provide opportunities for intergenerational programs and projects.

- *Within the Department of Education, Funds for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE) offers annual competitive grants to colleges and universities to support programs that could contain an intergenerational component.*

PRIVATE SECTOR SUPPORT

Private sector support and allies can provide many different kinds of support for your program and can be used to leverage additional funding. For example, members of the business community can:

- Offer "perks" or special benefits that appeal to both young and old participants in your program such as reduced fees or coupons for entertainment or goods;
- Donate uniforms, tools, or refreshments for training or special events;
- Donate supplies for projects such as paint, fabric, plants; or
- Underwrite the cost of developing program materials or services, such as printing.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT

Seeking corporate or foundation support may not mean writing a 25-page proposal to large national foundations and corporations. Look first to your own back yard. Support is often closer to home, such as a community foundation, a family foundation, or a local business. For example, the Westchester Community Foundation in Westchester County, New York recently implemented an intergenerational fund. The fund solely supports local intergenerational efforts in the Westchester community.

Private foundations and grantmaking organizations have areas of specific interest. Match your mission with the interests of grantmakers. Intergenerational program developers can not only approach foundations that focus on aging, young people, or both, but also those that fund education, neighborhoods, housing, community development and health to name a few. For more information, you can download a copy of Funding Across the Ages at www.gu.org.

For more information on GU's intergenerational program efforts, please contact GU at 202-638-1263 or gu@gu.org

legitimacy of government funding to them. But is there a deeper rationale for exploring the value of faith-based intergenerational programming? I believe the

explanation for this growing trend extends beyond the way the winds are currently blowing across the political landscape – in the United States or elsewhere. Some of those reasons include the following.

Over the years intergenerational programs have reached out to two groups of people who are often marginalized in society – the young and the old. These have been groups who have often been relegated to the peripheries of societal decision making, the value of their input overlooked. The young and the old have been on the wrong side of power equations in our communities. Their viewpoints have not always been taken seriously. Some of that power differential is changing with growing numbers of older adults, and the strength of groups like Generations United and AARP, but as a society we still have some road to travel before the young and the old are seen as central to our societal values. In this, faith-based intergenerational programs are relevant because faith communities can speak with a powerful voice for those who often find themselves on life's fringes.

Faith communities seek to empower the powerless, to give voice to the voiceless, and to bring into the center of our communities those that too often are left on its outskirts. Christians claim a wonderful tradition in this regard when they relate Jesus' words in the Gospel of Luke, spoken upon a return visit to his home synagogue. In these words he quotes from the Hebrew scripture, the prophet Isaiah: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4: 18-19, NRSV). These words spoken from a Judeo-Christian tradition, echo sentiments from other faith traditions, as well: the powerless and those perceived to be on the margins of life are of value. As persons of worth these marginalized ones – like the young and the old – are given special place in the work of faith-based communities. That special place makes possibilities for the connection of intergenerational and faith-based in the creation of programs

Intergenerational programs are about building bridges between disparate groups, such as teenagers and older adults, in ways that mutual understanding and caring can develop. They are about reaching out to the frail and dependent to provide a sense of compassion and connection such as when older adults care for children in a day care

Faith communities seek to empower the powerless, to give voice to the voiceless, and to bring into the center of our communities those that too often are left on its outskirts.

center or when children visit older adults in a dementia unit. They are about identifying community problems and issues and working together to find solutions like seeking ways to

end gang violence in an urban neighborhood. In ways like these intergenerational programs work toward the wholeness of the people and communities involved. With that basis, they are rich with faith-based possibilities.

Faith-based communities also seek the wholeness of persons – body, mind, and spirit. Turning again to the Hebrew scripture, there is a wonderful biblical term, shalom, which has root meanings that include the concepts of completeness, wholeness, and harmony or well-being. It occurs over 250 times in Judeo-Christian scripture. The seeking after wholeness – of individuals, of groups, of systems, of communities – is central to the values of many faith congregations. As intergenerational programs work toward wholeness, shalom, there are wonderful possibilities for connecting them with faith communities.

Finally faith-based intergenerational programs can bring together two powerful resources: intergenerational interactions and peoples' faiths. In the union of those two resources, connections can be made between and among people, mutual understanding can be fostered, and the fabric of our communities can be strengthened. None of this needs to suggest proselytizing. Faith-based intergenerational programs don't need to have goals of increasing congregational membership to be effective and worthwhile. Instead, their goals have to do with creating environments in our congregations and communities where dialogue, not dissension, is valued; where people make meaningful connections with each other; where peace and wholeness – shalom – are paramount. Those things are rooted in our sense of the spiritual – that which gives life meaning and value. Those things are rooted in many of our faith traditions yet they transcend any one of our faith traditions. In the transcending is opportunity for dialogue among faith traditions. This dialogue that joins faith-based resources to intergenerational possibilities can assist in the creation of a society that views intergenerational interactions as not just nice, but necessary.

Think for a moment about where you see faith-based intergenerational work being done in your community. Perhaps it is rooted in faith-based communities such as temples, mosques, churches, or synagogues. Perhaps it is grounded in social service agencies that have faith-based missions. Take another moment to consider where your community could benefit from the addition of faith-based

intergenerational programming. Examples abound. Consider several:

• **Support group of grandparents who are raising grandchildren-**

The group has been together in one form or another since the mid-1980s. Hosted by a faith-based social service agency, the group is intentionally faith-based in their orientation. Prayer and scripture are central to their meetings and to their identity. Group members range in age from their 50s to their 80s. Each one of them is raising at least one grandchild who range in age from young children to teenagers. They are seeking support for their intergenerational family, and have looked to a group that is grounded in a faith tradition for the strength and hope that they need.

• **Congregation who pairs teenagers with older adult members of the community of faith** during its annual membership training program. These older adults serve as mentors for these newcomers to the congregation's membership. These pairs interact in formal class sessions, as well as less formal encounters in the hallway of the congregation's building or over pizza at a local restaurant. The older members share – through word and example – the ways in which their faith has guided and sustained them over the years. The teens share the joys and struggles that they face today. During their time together they learn about each other's worlds. They walk a bit of their life roads together. Often the relationships that are formed during the membership training classes continue long after the teens have joined the congregation.

• **Intergenerational religious education program** that occurs in one congregation at various times throughout the year. The congregation noticed that often children were not welcomed in the formal, traditional worship service. Some adults were even heard to say, "Worship is for grown-ups." Wanting to create an atmosphere where the youngest to the oldest felt invited into the community of faith, they developed a series of special programs. Each program had a theme which was carried out through the morning. The regular schedule for that day was suspended. Learning centers were created on the first floor of the building. Little children helped older adults to create a craft. Teenagers interacted with older members at the drama center. Participants sat together – mingled, not segregated by ages – during the closing worship time. People began to see each

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other in a different way. Participants began to see the purpose of worship and religious education differently.

• **Ecumenical mission trip to Mexico-** As their web site says, "Fourteen travelers journeyed to five struggling Mexican Indian communities to witness

efforts to overcome poverty and live in dignity during an 8-day social justice trip." They "spent days and nights" in several communities "where communal meals were served and celebrated and trees planted at family home sites as well as along semi-arid croplands." The delegation was multicultural and intergenerational, ranging in age from 10 to the mid-70s. This was the seventh trip to Hidalgo by the Strategic Pastoral Action Network.

In an address in October, 2000, to the "Symposium on Faith-Based Organizations and Community Development," Gary Melton, Director of the Institute on Family and Neighborhood Life at Clemson University said: "Faith-based organizations almost always are established as communities of service motivated by the desire to protect the dignity of human beings created in God's image." Intergenerational programs also protect the dignity of human beings by speaking for the marginalized and seeking to build bridges of understanding and trust. Uniting faith-based resources with intergenerational strategies opens a world of possibilities for people to find ways to understand each other, for the powerless and marginalized to be given new voice, and for communities to be strengthened.

David J. Fetterman, M.Ed. is the Director of the GrandKIN Raising GrandKIDS Program for Generations Together at the University of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania. Ordained in the United Methodist Church, David has served as a Pastor and Minister of Education in a number of local congregations, as well as a chaplain in both a skilled nursing facility and an assisted living facility. David is a Certified Minister of Education in the United Methodist Church. He holds a Master of Divinity from Wesley Theological Seminary and a Master of Education in Adult Education from the Pennsylvania State University. Currently he is a Ph.D. student in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh.

BOOK REVIEW—LINKING LIFETIMES: A GLOBAL VIEW OF INTERGENERATIONAL EXCHANGE

by Matthew Kaplan, Nancy Henkin, and Atsuko Kusano,
University Press of America, 2002

REVIEW COMMENTS FROM LIZ LARKIN
Associate Professor, University of South Florida

Intergenerational Exchange: A Global Perspective contains many long-awaited international studies, models, and conceptual frameworks for understanding the importance of an intergenerational approach to social issues. This compilation of cultural perspectives provides an insightful comparison of how some societies are struggling to maintain their rich heritage of beliefs and traditions typically passed along through familial connections, while others hope to re-establish bonds that have been lost through increasing institutionalizing and segregating of the generations. This work is an important contribution to the field, filling an obvious gap in the literature about the essence of intergenerational exchange, its powerful consequences, and an emerging body of knowledge about effective programming from a broad perspective. By identifying different stages of social change with regard to intergenerational relationships, the editors have provided us with insights into positive ways that future social policies might be directed. The different cultural concerns and models shed light on the biases of our own assumptions about why and how intergenerational strategies are necessary.

Among its highlights are the following:

—**Chapter 1** *A Conceptual Framework for Cross-Cultural Comparisons of Intergenerational initiatives*—Matthew Kaplan, Nancy Henkin, and Atsuko Kusano: This cultural framework chapter is extremely important and sets up the critical nature of looking at culture from a global perspective when considering the issue of intergenerational relationships.

—**Chapter 2** *Challenging Stereotypes Across Eastern and Western Cultures*—Howard Giles, Robert McCann, Hiroshi Ota, and Kimberly Noels: This chapter illuminates many points about how eastern and western cultures view the process of aging, and intergenerational relationships. It is pithy, informative, and a major contribution to the field.

—**Chapter 4** *Employing Proverbs to Explore Intergenerational Relations Across Cultures*—Matthew Kaplan: A fascinating premise that compares beliefs and biases about youth and aging embedded in language. Wonderful metaphors telegraph ideas about how a society looks upon the wisdom of elders and the potential of youth.



—**Chapter 8** *Intergenerational Initiatives in Singapore: Commitments to Community and Family Building*—Leng Leng Thang: Very interesting chapter about a culture that is based on a strong familial context for intergenerational relationships. Provides a peek at how a society that is moving toward a more industrialized, institutional way of life is losing critical ties among generations and what critical cultural capital, as well as social cohesion, can get lost along the way.

—**Chapter 11** *Intergenerational Community Building in the Netherlands*—Kees Penninx: Another powerful model for others to contemplate – especially the idea of creating Guilds in every community to pool resources. Particularly interesting is the fact that this is a society with an extensive social infrastructure, and yet 63% of older people have no contact with the young. Thus, they are ripe for an intergenerational perspective on social policy and community building to address shared concerns.

—**Chapter 12** *Intergenerational Engagement in the UK: A Framework for Creating Inclusive Communities*—Gillian Granville and Alan Hatton-Yeo: The whole issue of class brings another dimension to intergenerational exchange that is taken up in this chapter. Problems with ageism merely aggravate the underlying problem of class exclusion. Questions of political power and social change through an intergenerational approach are clearly presented, and a convincing case is made for bringing older and younger perspectives together.

—**Chapter 13** *German Pupils and Jewish Seniors: Intergenerational Dialogue as a Framework for Healing History*—Toshio Ohsako: Wow! This presentation of an intergenerational model of healing history is extraordinarily moving. It is so immediate and specific that this heartfelt need convinces us of the critical nature of intergenerational exchange more than any other. If we didn't recognize the nature of cultural continuity, of understanding among generations, of constructive social change, before — then surely we can see it after reading this chapter.

On the Road

GU continues to promote the intergenerational message through presentations, workshops and speeches throughout the country. Information about upcoming events is listed below.

FEBRUARY

27-MARCH 1

National School Age Care Alliance Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, "Engaging Community Resources: Older Adults in After-school Programs," Jaia Peterson and Sheri Steing.

MARCH

7-8

The Oklahoma Aging Advocacy Leadership Academy Graduate Seminar, OK, "Grandparent Raising Children," Ana Beltran

13-16

American Society on Aging/National Council on the Aging Joint Conference, Chicago, IL, "LEARN Model Intergeneration Programs," Donna Butts; "Reaching Across the Ages: Intergenerational Approaches to Public Policy," Jaia Peterson with Bob Blancato and Eric Kingson, and Thomas Jones.

"Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Mental and Physical Health Issues and Solutions," Caroline Crocoll with Lenora Poe*

APRIL 10

49th Annual Kirkpatrick Conference, Muncie, IN, "Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Challenges and Joys," Jaia Peterson

MAY

12-17

National Foster Parent Association Education Conference, "The KinNET Project: Building a Nation"

Network of Support Groups for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Kin in Foster Care," Caroline Crocoll

*Expert Trainers deployed by GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

If you would like to schedule someone from Generations United to address your conference or event, call 202-638-1263 or email gu@gu.org.

CARE-A-VANNERS, *continued from page 11*

need of shelter. Though Habitat is a Christian organization, the "Theology of the Hammer" brings people of all faiths together for this common purpose. Habitat's Christian background calls for its members to actively carry on God's work by giving all families the dignity and the safety of their own home. By working together Habitat believes that God is able to enhance the effects of everyone's effort, through "the economics of Jesus." The "economics of Jesus" is based on people selflessly offering their services without regard for profit. Habitat points to this collective effort and divine help as the financial secret to providing housing for a half a million people. Just as the theology of the hammer unites people of all faiths Habitat provides unique opportunities to unite all generations in service.

To learn more about opportunities near you contact Habitat for Humanity at 229-924-6935, ext. 2551 or visit these sites: <http://www.friendsofvista.org/living/index.html>, <http://www.habitat.org/ccyp/ccfacts.html>, www.habitat.org

GU'S NATIONAL NETWORK OF EXPERT TRAINERS:

- Deliver training and technical assistance at the local, state, and national levels.
- Will respond to requests from State Units on Aging, Area Agencies on Aging, and other agencies and organizations.
- Are equipped to respond to requests for various types and lengths of trainings, and subject areas.
- Is made up of 18 experts from around the country who will train professionals on various topics such as:
 - Respite Care
 - Support Group Development
 - Legal and Policy Issues
 - Physical/ Mental Health Care
 - Tribal Culture



To request training or for more information on GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children, visit our web site at www.gu.org or contact the Center's Coordinator, Cara Goldstein at 202-638-1263 or cgoldstein@gu.org

NEW RESOURCES

HOMESHARE EUROPE NOW AVAILABLE IN THE U.S. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

In 2000, the European Union provided funding for European leaders of the intergenerational program, Homeshare, to develop "pathways to future cooperation". The group comprised Homeshare International, Professor Maria Asuncion Martinez Roman of the University of Alicante in Spain (founder of Homeshare in that city), Professor Anne-Lotte Kreickemeier of the University of Darmstadt (who also founded Homeshare in Germany) and Jumbo Klercq of Odyssee, The Netherlands.

With these funds the group created www.homeshare.org, but in addition, the two professors undertook to research every Homeshare program that exists in Europe and to create the first-ever directory of European programs. The resulting publication is in five parts, the first three of which include the same information - about Homeshare generally, Homeshare International and all the programs in Europe - in three languages: English, Spanish, and German.

Part four comprises the primary source information (completed questionnaires from each of the programs) while part five is a directory of all European Homeshare programs.

The book is now available in the US Library of Congress: Kreickemeier, Anne-Lotte and Roman, Maria Asuncion Martinez, Homeshare in Europe, University of Alicante. ISBN reference: 84-699-5766-X

EFFECTIVE SUPERVISORY PRACTICE, two classes offered from the Child Welfare League of America. Classes are designed for both entry-level supervisors and more experienced middle managers from residential treatment centers, psychiatric hospitals, community-based human service organizations, child day care centers, youth and family shelters, substance abuse treatment centers, juvenile corrections facilities, and other human service organizations. For more information call 617-769-4010.

TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE WE...STAY: WHEN YOU HAVE TO STOP SPOILING YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND START RAISING THEM by Sally Houtoman, a timely book for grandparents who find themselves parenting a second generation of children. The book offers practical solutions to real-life problems that families face when traditional roles and relationships are redefined. To order visit www.activeparenting.com or call 800-825-0060.

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDKIDS: WHAT EVERY KINSHIP CAREGIVER SHOULD KNOW, a 45 page guide and curriculum for support group leaders. Designed to assist in the start up of kinship caregiver supportive education groups. Sessions are

designed to aid the participants in feeling comfortable in sharing their difficult stories, while providing education about issues crucial to kinship families. To order call Generation Connection, Lutherans Social Services of Minnesota at 888-205-3770.

THE PACT, a Lifetime original movie that deals with teen suicide that premiered on November 4, 2002. The Pact portrays two families' reactions to a young woman's decision to follow through with a suicide pact she made with her boyfriend. The National Mental Health Association and Lifetime have created an educational kit that will help explain to the public how to spot and respond to signs of depression and suicidal thoughts or behavior in young people. The educational kit is available for download online at www.nmha.org.

2kNATION, a new Washington D.C. area teen radio show airing live every Sunday night from 7:00 to 8:00 PM on WPFW 89.3 FM. Run by teens this show offers programming on news, topics, live discussion, and music.

FRIENDS INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM, this documentary video captures the benefits and magic of intergenerational

programs. A public school preschool program is located within a nursing home and the children and elders are fully immersed in daily activities together. Observe the resident's sparkle and zest for life, resulting from the children's exuberance and affection. To order email gcbo_bmiccart@k12server.mveca.org or call 888-947-3363 ext. 4311.

GERIATRIC MENTAL HEALTH CARE: A TREATMENT GUIDE FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, a guide designed for mental health practitioners and primary care providers without advanced training in geriatric psychiatry. To order visit www.guilford.com or call 800-365-7006.

YOUR STEPFAMILY: EMBRACE THE FUTURE the magazine focuses on the unique dynamics of a stepfamily. Issues examined include co-parenting and nurturing sibling relationships. To subscribe visit www.yourstepfamily.com.

THE NEW AMERICA'S FAMILY CAREGIVER HEALTH GUIDE, a guide for caregivers to gather necessary information they need to organize and perform this important role. To order visit www.securitec.com or call 800-783-2145.

AGING AND ELDER CARE, a comprehensive kit covering all aspects of aging and elder care, created to help support family as well as professional caregivers sections include Family Issues and Care & Living Arrangements. To order visit www.parlay.com or call 800-457-2752.

RESOURCES IN AGING AND LONG TERM CARE, is a catalog of publications and videos examining the issues of caring for the aging. For more information call 888-337-8808 or visit www.healthpress.com.

CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT TOOLS, a catalog offering diverse groups of resources for child service organizations and other human needs organizations to improve their services and management. To order visit www.cwla.org/pubs or call 800-407-6273.

GIFTABLES 2003, a catalog of great gift ideas from the Child Welfare League of America The catalog has many different items from books, jewelry, magnets, and posters designed for fundraising and special events. To order visit www.cwla.org/pubs or call 800-407-6273.

GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN: SUPPORT IN THE WORKPLACE

This new user-friendly guide by Generations United is designed to raise the awareness among human resource personnel about the number of grandparent- and other relative-headed families these families in the workplace, and to provide models of supportive policies and programs that

employers can replicate. The publication contains the results of a corporate human resource survey regarding the inclusion of these families in: medical insurance; dental and vision benefits; child care services; employee assistance/counseling programs; leave policies; and other available benefits. GU's National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children is available to serve as a resource for Work/Life program staff, benefits administrators, and other human resource personnel who are looking to find ways to support relative caregiver employees in their companies. To order a copy of the guide, complete and return the book order form, in this newsletter or visit www.gu.org.



SHAKTI FOR CHILDREN, this catalog from the Global Fund for Children includes three new titles, including "A Kid's Best Friend", "Animal Friend", and "Children of Native America Today". To order visit www.shakti.org.

NEWLY AVAILABLE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDES



The Children's Defense Fund has created four helpful guides; written specifically for kinship caregivers, to answer their questions about important issues affecting the children in their care.

These guides offer information on federal programs, eligibility requirements, and how to enroll the children they are raising.

- The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Child Care and Early Education
- The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Food and Nutrition Programs for Children
- The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Health Insurance for Children
- The Grandparent's and Other Relative Caregiver's Guide to Raising Children with Disabilities

There is no charge for single copies of each guide. For multiple copies there will be a fee for postage, shipping, and handling. To order contact the Children's Defense Fund at: (202) 662-4589 or visit childwelfare@childrensdefense.org.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

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 Katlyn Blackstone
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 Gertrude Burrell
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 Rita Chow
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 Becky Stamm
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 Holly Strand
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 Marla J. Yoho

NEW GU MEMBERS

ORGANIZATIONS

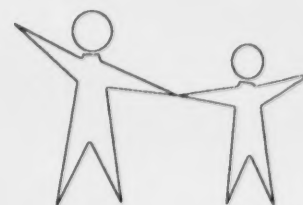
DAC-Advocates for Children & Families, Las Cruces, NM
 Intergenerational Strategies, Inc., Hauppauge, NY
 Grandma's Support
 Group/Pines Community Center, Chapel Hill, NC
 WA-ID Volunteer Center, Lewiston, ID
 Mercy Senior Care-Rome, GA
 Pathways, Granite Falls, MN

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GENERATIONS UNITED BOOK ORDER FORM

TITLE	COST	QUANTITY	TOTAL
NEW PUBLICATIONS			
☆ Generations Unite to Eliminate Child Poverty poster—free to members	\$1.50 (P&H)	_____	_____
☆ Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Support in the Workplace	\$7.00	_____	_____
☆ Behind the Scenes: Stories from Generations United's First Intergenerational Photography Contest	\$5.00	_____	_____
☆ Reaching Across the Ages: An Action Agenda to Strengthen Communities Through Intergenerational Shared Sites and Resources	\$10.00	_____	_____
.....			
Strengthening the Social Compact: An Intergenerational Strategy	\$5.00	_____	_____
Young and Old Serving Together: Meeting Community Needs Through Intergenerational Partnerships Newly Revised	\$10.00	_____	_____
Older Adults Caring for Children: Intergenerational Child Care	\$15.00	_____	_____
Celebrate the Generations: Intergenerational Week Guidebook	\$10.00	_____	_____
Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 107 th Congress (FREE TO MEMBERS)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Something to Remember Me By & Building Connections Between Young & Old. (Hardback)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Building Connections Between Young and Old (A readers companion to <i>Something to Remember Me By</i> .)	\$1.00	_____	_____
A Guide to the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Its Inclusion of Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children	\$7.00	_____	_____
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MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT: _____

GU members subtract 25% from total

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(All prices include postage and handling)

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Generations United,

122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820,

Washington, DC 20001

202/638-1263 Fax: 202/638-7555

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

27-MARCH 1

National School-Age Care Alliance 2003 Conference, "Make Learning Fun," Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information visit www.nsacaConference.com

MARCH

13-16

Joint Conference of the National Council on the Aging and The American Society on Aging, Chicago, Illinois. For more information visit www.agingconference.org

MAY

7-8

Kansas Department on Aging 2003 Governor's Conference on Aging Services, Topeka, Kansas. For more information call 800-432-3535.

JULY

12-16

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging 28th Annual Conference &

Exhibition, "Discover the Differences a Partnership Makes," Baltimore, Maryland. For more information visit www.n4a.org.

20-23

Alzheimer's Association, 11th National Alzheimer's Disease Education Conference, Chicago, Illinois. For more information visit www.alz.org.

SEPTEMBER

4-6

The 21st International Conference on Family-Centered Care, Boston, Massachusetts. For more information visit www.familycenteredcare.org or call 301-652-0281.

OCTOBER

11-14

National Crime Prevention Council, "United for a Stronger America," Washington, DC. For more information visit www.ncpc.org/pop.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BECOME A GENERATIONS UNITED MEMBER TODAY

Generations United is the only national membership organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational policies, strategies and programs. Members support the work of GU and can provide direct input into GU's priorities.

Membership benefits include:

- annual subscription to *Together*, GU's quarterly newsletter
- conference and educational event discounts
- public policy alerts and briefings
- access to our national program profile database
- linkage to GU's web page
- discounts on GU publications
- and much more!

Join Generations United today to support and strengthen the intergenerational movement nationally and in Washington, DC. If you have any questions, please contact us at 202/638-1263.

Membership Application:

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Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

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Dues are paid on a yearly basis:

- ☐ Individual membership-\$50
 - ☐ Individual sustaining-\$100*
 - ☐ Student or Retiree membership-\$25
 - ☐ Organization membership-Based on a sliding scale.
- Contact GU directly for more information before sending in form.

* Contributions above the basic membership fee support the work of Generations United and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please make check payable to Generations United and return to: Generations United 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001-2109

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Generations United

International Conference



Special Grandparenting Workshops available

SAVE THE DATE

October 15-18, 2003

Old Town Alexandria, VA

(minutes from Washington, D.C.)

Generations United is pleased to announce that our 12th International Conference will be held **October 15-18, 2003**, in Alexandria, Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C. Look for the call for proposals later this year. For more information, contact **Generations United at 202-638-1263 or gu@gu.org**

Please save these dates and we hope to see you there!



a national coalition dedicated to intergenerational policy, programs and issues

For more information, call 202-638-1263

e-mail: gu@gu.org www.gu.org

Intergenerational Approaches:

Not Just Nice ... Necessary



Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: programs, policy and research

SALLY NEWMAN PH.D., EDITOR

The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: Program, Policy, and Research is the only international journal focusing exclusively on the intergenerational field from a practical, theoretical, and social policy perspective. The journal is a unique and comprehensive resource that will help you enhance your professional development and effectiveness.

The journal will be published both in print format and electronically. For more information about the journal and how to subscribe visit the journal's Web site at <http://jir.ucsur.pitt.edu> or call 412-648-7155

Together



THE GENERATIONS UNITED NEWSLETTER • Volume 8 • Number 2 • 2003

ARTS ACROSS THE AGES

by Susan Perlstein
Executive Director, Elders
Share the Arts

To many, Bushwick is known only as a largely African American; low-income community in Brooklyn, New York, a neighborhood that lacks economic and institutional infrastructure. As in many urban neighborhoods, these chronic problems have slowly eroded the social structure of the community. With so much need for social action in the community, Bushwick's older adult residents were

perplexed that local youth rarely vote. They themselves had fought so hard for the right to vote, and they worried about the implications of the apathy they saw in young people. Is this community doomed to deteriorate? Will the misunderstandings between generations lead to intergenerational conflict?

Elders Share the Arts (ESTA) saw neither doom nor conflict in this negatively labeled community. Instead they found a moment of opportunity. Joining with community members, ESTA led the effort to create a community arts partnership between a local senior center and high school in order to nurture meaningful connections and communal problem-solving between Bushwick's generations. Seniors began weekly sessions with the high school students and told stories of growing up down south, lynching, and voter registration. The students shared that they felt their vote didn't make a difference. They felt discouraged and

overwhelmed by the political and economic obstacles they faced.

From these regular meetings emerged a transformative project. ESTA staff taught participants theater skills, playwriting and

they performed, they earned voter registration cards. Over the span of their performances, they registered over five hundred new voters. Art builds community!

Elders Share the Arts is a nationally-recognized



Artworks, San Francisco, California

production. By the end of the year, the students and seniors had created an original play, Bushwick, Why Vote? This play was performed at high schools throughout the area, and the cast members sparked lively discussions with their audiences after each performance. Wherever

community arts organization dedicated to using the Living History arts to honor diverse traditions, to connect generations and cultures and to validate the worth of lifetime experience. Through a unique synthesis of oral history and the creative arts, ESTA staff

This Issue: Arts and Cultural Exchange

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DONNA BUTTS



I was with Amy Goyer in Germany when the war began. We were traveling to attend the first face-to-face meeting of the new management committee of the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programs (ICIP). We were honored last year when our colleagues elected Amy, who is with AARP, and I to represent the USA. Both of us looked forward to working with other professionals

from around the world to grow the fledgling organization.

Between rich working sessions, the conversations in Germany reminded me of a short paper *Generations United* published in 2001 on the intergenerational response to September 11th. In it we talked about the importance of intergenerational dialogues and providing support to military families, including those families where a grandparent or other relative has stepped in to care for children left behind. These recommendations are more important than ever as our country faces a conflict of undetermined length. Our greatest contribution to homeland security may well be reaching out to connect with another generation in our own community.

Amy and I had a wonderful few days with our colleagues. We planned for the future of ICIP and learned more about how we might work together to further the global reach of intergenerational strategies. Several terrific programs were highlighted including Germany's Dialogue of the Generations and the UK's Magic Me. One morning over breakfast Dov Friedlander, who represents Israel, told me about what he considered a new intergenerational program underway in his country. During practice emergency drills school children are being evacuated to local nursing homes. They found it provides a sense of calm for the children and hope for the residents. Lately the older friends have been learning how to put gas masks on the children. While this is a chilling thought, it also offers a strange comfort that even during times of war, our oldest and youngest can give each other hope, security and purpose.

This issue of *Together*, focuses on arts and culture. As we face the unknown that comes with war and conflict, art and culture programs can bring the much-needed sense of calm and hope. Arts and cultural exchange connect the generations in unique ways that bring hope and resilience while providing the connection between yesterday, today, and the future.

FROM THE CHAIR: JOHN ROTHER

This spring, we are pleased to begin pursuing several innovative projects through both new and long-standing partnerships.

In cooperation with Temple University's Center for Intergenerational Learning, GU is developing and delivering a series of training programs designed to engage the National Education Association constituency group members (retired, students and higher education faculty advisors) in intergenerational new teacher mentoring programs. Through the generous support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, our partnership with Temple will also include the development of a technical assistance guide to help communities engage older adults as resources to children and families.

Thanks to support from a new collaboration with the Environmental Protection Agency, GU's upcoming international conference in October will include a new pre-conference on intergenerational environmental programs and solutions. And once again, due to continued support from the MetLife Foundation, we are pleased to announce our 3rd annual intergenerational photography contest. The new photos will be used to update our traveling exhibit, which is used to share the value of intergenerational relationships.

On the policy front, we continue to educate members of Congress on legislation that supports intergenerational relationships such as the Corporation for National and Community Service and the LEGACY housing bill. New to our agenda this year is a section on the budget and tax policy, which emphasizes how policies should assure resources to fund necessary programs for children, youth and older people.

GU's Board of Directors is pleased to welcome to our Board, Deborah Derby, Senior Vice President of Human Resources for Toys R Us and Mark Shriver, Vice President and Managing Director of Save the Children, U.S. programs. Deborah is a graduate of Notre Dame Law School and brings many years of corporate wisdom to our Board. Mark has an extensive background in advocacy and work with at-risk youth, and served two four-year terms as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. We also welcome back Catherine Milton who will be rejoining our board in her new capacity as President of Friends of the Children, an innovative, national, professional mentoring program.



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THEME FOR THIS ISSUE

Arts and Cultural Exchange  (denotes articles that relate to theme)

GENERATIONS UNITED TOGETHER

Together celebrates the richness of generations by providing useful information about intergenerational programs and policies through articles that address the mutual well-being of children, youth, adults, and older adults.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

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Bob Rosenblatt, Los Angeles Times, Washington D.C. Correspondent, Washington, D.C.

Generations United members represent many viewpoints. Inclusion of articles, research, conferences, or resources does not imply GU's endorsement. We encourage our members to submit articles, artwork, photographs, and information on upcoming events, recent publications, or honors. All materials are considered carefully for publication.

Together is published quarterly for members of Generations United.

Please e-mail jpeterson@gu.org or submit a disc compatible with Microsoft Word to Editor, Generations United, 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001 or call 202/638-1263.

Joan Petersen, Editor

Marcia DeLong, Design & Layout, DeLong Litho

News from the STATES

CALIFORNIA

By Gladys Hotchkiss
Senior Affairs Commission
of San Bernardino County
Aging and Adult Services

Almost four years ago the Senior Affairs Commission of the San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services started their first Intergenerational Committee, and one of our original goals was to hold our first conference during 2002. In October we reached our goal with a successful conference featuring Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United as our keynote speaker. The event caught the attention of a multitude of nearby agencies, and soon after, ideas and suggestions began to pour in from all directions. Now these agencies are networking in new ways to create possibilities for the future.

Inspired by the conference multiple organizations are now working together to create possibilities for the future. In addition to San Bernardino County Department of Aging and Adult Services, participants include other Area Agencies on Aging, Children's Protective Services, Adult Protective Services, Grandparent's Support Groups, and Kinship

Support Groups. Several groups met again in February to outline steps required to keep their dreams alive and growing.

It is always inspiring and exciting to see a project you worked on so hard and for so long ignite a fire of enthusiasm among the participants-especially when groups, which have always worked independently, begin to realize how much more effective they will be when they join their efforts in a determination to serve their clients in more effective ways. Who knows just how huge this expanding fire of enthusiasm about intergenerational matters in our area can become.

For more information contact Gladys Hotchkiss at ghotchkiss@aol.com.

WISCONSIN

By Diane Szymanski
Foster Grandparent
Coordinator

"I learned a lot from doing this project." Brittnee, age 16, tells the group sitting at the table in a room at the Madison Senior Center. It is time to

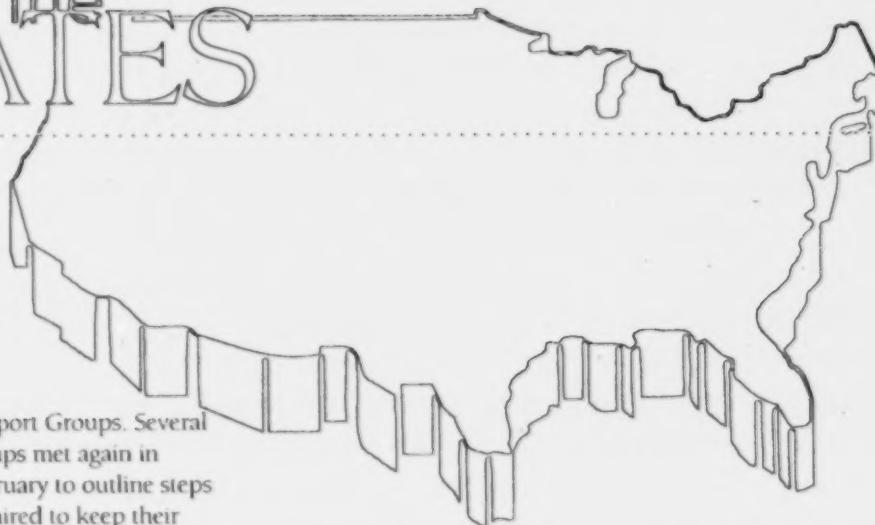
celebrate the premier of a new video, a joint project with 5 students from MASH (Middleton Alternative High School) and 11 Foster Grandparent volunteers. For 7 months people worked together, planning, taping, visiting, getting to know each other and becoming friends.

Foster Grandparents volunteer 20 hours per week in area schools and Head Start sites. They help children learn to read, write, spell and act as both mentors for the children and a support system for the teacher. They also must meet federal income eligibility guidelines.

The video documents the volunteer experience. Seth, 17, puts it this way: "The purpose of the video was to show others that this program is out there. It is something of a recruitment video. The Foster Grandparent Program is for the elderly who still want to teach, work and feel part of the community."

Jim Mathews, social Studies teacher at MASH shepherded the project. He called it meaningful and authentic with immediate rewards for the students. He saw increased motivation to become involved in schoolwork. The students may not have older adults in their lives and responded well to the warmth, unconditional acceptance and life experiences shared. The students, Jim believes, need good relationships with adults.

Each of the participants felt the same, connected to each other and more aware of a larger community. The day of the premier, they shared laughter, some tears, hugs and each person takes a moment to say what the project has meant to them. Brittnee reflected, "Just from me going to the schools and seeing the children with the grandparents, I noticed right away how much the kids loved having them there. I also learned about





Wisconsin students and Foster Grandparents work together on a video documentary.

how much volunteering can make you feel worthwhile."

Danielle, another participant explained, "I think that the Foster Grandparent Program is an awesome program... The grandparents help the children with more than just reading and schoolwork...they help them with their personal lives...If kids need anyone to talk to I think that they trust the grandparents. Personally I think that by us doing this video it has made a difference and that made me happy too...I really think MASH should do more service-learning projects because this one taught me a lot. I think that I would volunteer if I saw this video and I hope that other people think the same way."

For more information contact Diane Szymanski, Foster Grandparent Coordinator

RSVP of Dane County, Inc.
Madison, Wisconsin 608/441-7894,
dszymanski@rsvpdane.org or
Jim Mathews, MASH
608/829-9640

NEW YORK

Thirty leaders of Long Island of intergenerational programs – those that combine senior citizens with youth – recently met at the State University at Stony Brook to establish an intergenerational networking organization on Long Island. With a population of over 2.7 million people, Long Island is larger than twenty states.

The group consists of professional educators, social workers, and health care professionals that wish to stimulate awareness of the benefits of intergenerational programming and increase the number of intergenerational programs.

"This is a great step

forward for the intergenerational movement on Long Island," says Paul Arfin, President of Intergenerational Strategies, the organizer of the event.

The new Intergenerational Network will create opportunities for program leaders to learn from one another and help disseminate information to those that have yet to operate intergenerational programs. Group members

will benefit by learning about some of the exemplary programs operating throughout the country so that they can be replicated on Long Island.

Kevin Brabazon, President of the New York State Intergenerational Network, spoke to the group and welcomed the establishment of the group as a unit of the statewide network. He described his organization as a clearinghouse of information and a spokesman for intergenerational issues in Albany. It was established in 1991 with the encouragement of Generations United. Among the ideas discussed were the convening an Intergenerational Conference next Fall and the sponsorship of annual awards to exemplary intergenerational programs.

For further information, contact Paul Arfin at 631-232-1262.

SAVE THE DATE!

GLOBAL CHALLENGES - FUTURE DIRECTIONS: INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMES, RESEARCH AND POLICY

The International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) will hold its second biennial conference on June 3-5, 2004 at the University of Victoria, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information, please check the conference website:

<http://web.uvic.ca/cyc/icip/>

KINNET AND RESPITE: CARING FOR CAREGIVERS THROUGH INNOVATIVE SUPPORT GROUP ACTIVITIES

by Caroline Crocoll

Associate Director

*The National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives
Raising Children*

If you talk to many grandparents today, they will tell you that they spend a great deal of time caring for their grandchildren. In this era of highly mobile, dual-income families, adequate childcare may be unavailable, or out of the range of affordability. Consequently, grandparents may find themselves providing temporary care for their grandchildren, so that adult children can work to make ends meet. On the other end of the continuum, grandparents may have permanent custody of their grandchildren due to many hardships that limit an adult child's ability to properly care for their children.

Although the level and frequency of care provided by grandparents mediates the impact of caregiving on their quality of life, one thing remains constant. Some form of respite, defined as an interval of rest or relief, is necessary for all caregivers. Caregiver respite decreases individual and family stresses associated with caregiving, including support and preservation of family or caregiving relationships. Caregiver respite activities can occur in a variety of settings, including the families' homes, providers' homes, camps, residential facilities, day care centers, recreational facilities, churches, therapeutic child development centers, family resource centers, schools, and senior centers.

Linking respite activities with support groups is also an important way to benefit caregivers on an ongoing basis. In response to the need for caregiver respite, KinNET support group coordinators around the country have developed a variety of ways to provide activities for grandparents and other relatives raising children in the formal foster care system. At A Second Chance in Pittsburg, a KinNET Caregiver Retreat allowed support group members to enjoy a two-day getaway in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Money for the trip was raised by the group's Heart-to-Heart raffle, which gave away prizes donated by the community.

Spaulding for Children in Southfield, Michigan provided caregivers a retreat, which began with a continental breakfast and included spa-like services, a hearty lunch, and drawings for prizes. Services and products for the event were donated by the Spaulding staff and the local community. While

caregivers were being treated to their day of respite, volunteers provided special activities for the children at another location.

These are just two of the many thoughtful and creative ideas KinNET sites use to provide respite for relative caregivers. For comprehensive national and state respite information and resources, check out the following:

Casey Family Programs National Center for Resource Family Support offers information and resources on advancing the state of respite programs through training, knowledge development, and toolkits for action. For more information, contact: The Casey National Center at 888-295-6727, cncinfo@casey.org, or visit www.casey.org/cnc/support_retention/nav_respite.htm.

ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center assists and promotes the development of quality respite and crisis care programs to help families locate respite and crisis care services in their communities, and to serve as a strong voice for respite in all forums. Information on ARCH resources can be found at: www.chtop.com/ARCH/index.htm or by calling 800-473-1727.

State Coalitions- The ARCH National Respite Resource Network also provides resource information on state coalitions for respite in each state and the District of Columbia. Contact information and other resources can be found at: www.chtop.com/ARCH/coalitions.htm, or by calling 800-473-1727.

Respite Care Fact Sheet- A fact sheet from Generations United about respite care issues for grandparent and other relative caregivers is available on our website at <http://www.gu.org/projg&rofaqs.htm>

State Fact Sheets- State Kinship Care Fact Sheets providing respite information can be found on the Generations United website at www.gu.org/projg&rostates.htm.

The KinNET Project, funded through the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the only national initiative seeking to establish a network of support groups for relatives caring for kin in foster care. For more information on the KinNET Project, visit GU's website at www.gu.org or call 202-638-1263.



GENERATIONS UNITED PROGRAM UPDATE

DEBUNKING INTERGENERATIONAL MYTHS

By Sheri Steinig
Program Director

The fifth part in our series of tips for strong intergenerational partnerships focuses on debunking the common myths and misconceptions surrounding intergenerational programming. We hope that this information will be helpful in building support for intergenerational initiatives in your community and educating people on the realities of intergenerational programs.

Myth: Older adults and young people can't get along, they are just too different.

There are countless portrayals in popular media of conflict between older adults and young people. Scenes of reckless youth racing past disgruntled older adults are too common. Although those interactions do occur they are not necessarily the norm. Hundreds of intergenerational programs that intentionally bring older adults and youth together and prepare those participants for intergenerational interaction have shown they can work together, develop powerful relationships with each other, and get along exceptionally well.

Myth: Older adults do not want to be around young people.

This common intergenerational myth has been advanced by the increase of "snowbirds" (older adults who retire and move to warmer climates like Florida and Arizona), senior-only housing, and gated retirement communities. Although senior-only living did increase dramatically over the past few decades, recent studies show that many older adults preparing to retire plan on staying in their communities after retirement. Even those that do relocate are seeking intergenerational volunteer opportunities in their new communities and many are thinking about returning home to be close to their families.

Myth: Young people have very little to offer older adults.

Quite the contrary, in many communities across the U.S., young people are providing valuable services to older adults through intergenerational programs. Young people can provide chore services to help older adults or serve as friendly visitors for isolated seniors. Many young people are volunteering to teach older people computer skills like how

to search the Internet, send e-mail to their relatives, or develop their own websites. Young people are also teaching older adult immigrants English as a second language and helping them prepare to take their citizenship test.

Myth: Older adults are more interested in golf and bridge than service.

Statistics bear witness to the contrary. The Independent Sector's 1999 survey of giving and volunteering in the United States reported that 47.5% of adults over the age of 55, or 27.7 million people, volunteer and that older adults "are volunteering at a higher rate than ever before." The National Senior Service Corps reports that over 500,000 older adults serve with the Foster Grandparents Program, the Senior Companion Program, and RSVP.

Myth: Young people only care about themselves.

Research has shown that young people overwhelmingly express a desire to get things done in their communities and the vast majority (70%) report participating in activities to improve their communities. The Independent Sector's survey of teens found that 59.3% of teens between the age of 12 and 17, or 13.3 million teenagers, volunteer.

continued on page 17

Do you work with an
intergenerational arts program?
If the answer is YES, then we are
looking for you.

GU compiles profiles on model
programs from around the country to
include in our free online database.

To add your program, contact
Sheri Steinig at 202-638-1263 or visit
our online database at
www.gu.org/prog.

GRANDPARENTS AND OTHER RELATIVES RAISING CHILDREN: STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Ana Beltran

*Special Advisor, National Center on Grandparents and Other
Relatives Raising Children*

KENTUCKY

On January 8, a concurrent resolution, SCR 11, was introduced in the Kentucky Senate, which would create a state-wide task force to study the needs of grandparents raising their grandchildren and develop an action plan to address those needs. The resolution calls for establishment of the task force because "Kentucky immediately needs to prepare for the growing population of grandchildren being raised by grandparents."

The resolution delineates the composition of the taskforce, which would include policymakers, judges, grandparents, and representatives of the state's area agencies on aging, universities, and cooperative extensions. This diverse group is to look at various supports for the families, including financial assistance, respite care, after-school care, legal assistance, and local navigators to assist grandparents in obtaining services. The resolution's list of issues for the task force ends with a call to examine the "enhancement of respect for grandparent caregivers by changing the cultures of the legal, judicial, and social services communities."

The Kentucky KinCare Statewide Steering Committee, established five years ago in conjunction with a Relatives As Parents (RAPP) grant from the Brookdale Foundation, is working to get support for SCR 11. For more information concerning this resolution, contact Bill Montgomery of the Kentucky KinCare Project at 502-564-6930 or bill.montgomery@mail.state.ky.us.

WASHINGTON

A piece of legislation, HB 1233, to improve services for grandparents and other relatives raising children was

introduced in the Washington House of Representatives on January 20. A substitute bill was introduced on February 6, which made a few minor changes to the original legislation. The substitute has four major provisions:



First, it calls for the department of social and health services to implement strategies to increase the number of children placed with "willing and able relatives" when out-of-home placement is required. These strategies would include the development of a standardized, statewide protocol to be used in finding relatives.

Second, the legislation calls for the department to collaborate with community-based non-profit organizations to seek funding from private foundations or other government entities to establish two pilot kinship care navigator projects. These pilots would assist relatives to obtain services for the children they are raising. In less than two years, the department is to report to the legislature with recommendations about making the program state-wide. If the legislation is enacted and the program becomes state-wide, Washington will join New Jersey and Ohio as states with similar programs.

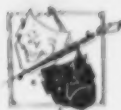
Third, the bill calls for the establishment of medical and educational consent laws. If a caregiver completes an affidavit form, which is included in the legislation, the caregiver can enroll the child in school and consent to school-related medical care, other medical care, and dental care. The form is very straight-forward and only asks nine questions. If the caregiver completes 1-5, he/she can enroll the child in school and consent to the school-related medical care. If he/she completes the rest, the child may also obtain other medical care and dental care. The questions on the form are as follows:

The minor named below lives in my home and I am

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CARRIERS OF CULTURE: INTERGENERATIONAL PRACTICES IN JAPAN

By Matt Kaplan, Ph.D., Associate Professor
Intergenerational Programs & Aging
Penn State University



Each culture has its own heritage and its own forms of traditional cultural arts which are passed on from generation to generation. The significance of this process goes beyond passing on information about the past. It is also about providing people with a shared sense of cultural identity and pride.

In Japan, a country with a very rich heritage and a population that is aging at a faster rate than in any other nation, older adults are traditionally seen as "conveyers of culture." Accordingly, it is no surprise that Japan is home to some innovative, dynamic intergenerational programs aimed at preserving cultural traditions. Here are some examples:

(1) In Nango Town (Miyagi Prefecture), there is a unique intergenerational cultural arts facility called "culture square." This facility, built by the municipal government as a means to attract younger generations to the town, enlists seniors to conduct activities aimed at enhancing youth awareness and pride in the traditional farming-oriented culture.

(2) In the farming village of Aizu-Yugawa (Fukushima Prefecture), there is an intergenerational folk storytelling program which was initiated by a group of six housewives/farmers. Senior adults are drawn upon to share their knowledge of stories of local folklore with children and youth in schools and community centers.

(3) A theatrical troupe of grandmothers called the "Batchama (Grandma) Company" (Toyama Prefecture) conducts comedic plays loosely based on local folk stories to audiences of all ages. Group members, who average 73 years of age, write their own scripts and develop their own costumes, wigs and props. The group, which began in 1986 as a puppetry play club is known for generating outrageous laughter and fun with their audiences.

(4) The Hiratsuka Junior Leaders Club (Kanagawa Prefecture), is a group of high school and junior high school students interested in puppetry and concerned about environmental preservation. They perform plays at local

nursing homes to entertain the senior adults and raise their awareness of local environmental preservation issues.

(5) The Kibi Children's Nature Center in Kayoucho Town (Okayama Prefecture) has as its major theme, "to have intergenerational exchange as a means to preserve and transmit traditional activities." The Center conducts two day workshops twice a year in which senior adults teach children and youth traditional ways to: build fires using charcoal, make "shimenawa" (straw wreaths used for New Year's holiday decorations), make kites, and make rice cakes.

At the end of each session, workshop participants have a barbecue party so that children and youth get the opportunity to utilize the skills they have learned.

(6) In a program organized as part of the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture's "Regional Boys and Girls Circle Activities Promotion Project" (in Kagoshima Prefecture), senior adults teach children how to: play "taiko" drums, perform "bo odori" (stick dancing), make local history maps, make "mikoshi" (portable shrines used in seasonal and religious festivals), and to perform regionally popular Noh plays (a traditional Japanese form of theater).

The preceding examples suggest that in Japan, as in the U.S., there are some vibrant intergenerational models designed to help preserve elements of cultural heritage and promote a sense of cultural identity. Although both cultures are obviously different, with different histories, there is a similar awareness that intergenerational dialogue is the key to maintaining cultural traditions. Also, in both cultures, the tools of the trade for seniors who function as cultural educators are quite varied; they draw upon photographs, songs, crafts, stories, games, recipes, keepsakes, and proverbs to bring history and tradition to life for future generations.

Portions of this article were derived from the 1998 book, *Intergenerational Programs: Support for Children, Youth and Elders in Japan*, by M. Kaplan, A. Kusano, I. Tsuji, and S. Hisamichi, published by the State University of New York Press. For more information contact Matthew Kaplan at 814-863-7871 or email at msk15@psu.edu.



INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

By JAIA PETERSON
Public Policy Director

Thanks to the rigorous work of Generations United's Public Policy Committee, the GU Public Policy Agenda for the 108th Congress is complete and being prepared for distribution. Consistent with past years, the agenda covers a range of issues affecting children and seniors in the areas of relative caregiving, health care, income supports, social supports and safe communities. This year a new section has been added to emphasize how the tax policy and budget decisions should assure resources to fund necessary programs for children, youth, and older people. This is a crucial time in

advocacy for children, youth, and older people because the federal budget (pending approval at time of printing) includes across the board cuts for essential programs that serve people of all ages. While GU will be doing education and advocacy on the full range of issues in our agenda, we will focus the majority of our efforts on four legislative priorities: housing for grandparents and other relatives raising children, reauthorization of the Corporation for National and Community Service, restored funding to the Social Services Block Grant, and preserving Medicaid.

LEGACY- HOUSING FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING CHILDREN

LEGACY- Living

This is a crucial time in advocacy for children, youth, and older people because the federal budget includes across the board cuts for essential programs that serve people of all ages.

Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth, a bill designed to provide safe and affordable housing to grandparents and other relatives raising children, was reintroduced in the Senate on February 12th by Senators Landrieu (D-LA), Mike Dewine (R-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), John Breaux (D-LA), and Susan Collins (R-ME). Representatives Michael Capuano (D-MA) and Jack Quinn (R-NY) are expected to reintroduce a companion bill in the House soon. Members of Congress need to hear from you about your support for housing for relative caregivers. If you support this legislation, contact your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor the LEGACY bill (S. 381) and contact you representative to tell them to support legislation that provide housing to grandparents and other relatives raising children. GU is seeking individual and organizational endorsements of the bill to help show members of Congress the broad support for grandparent- and other relative-headed

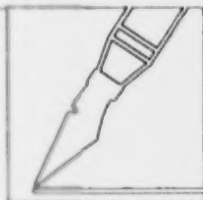
families. For a full description of the bill or to give your formal endorsement, contact Jaia Peterson at jpeterson@gu.org or 202-638-1263.

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

For the second year in a row, the president urged Congress in his State of the Union address to reauthorize the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS). Last year, despite bi-partisan support for the bill to reauthorize this program, congressional leadership did not bring the Citizen Service Act to the floor for a vote. This bill would reauthorize CNCS programs including Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve, all of which provide unique, effective intergenerational service opportunities. Again this year, there is strong bi-partisan support for the program, but House leadership is not likely to

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE ALERTS

If you would like to receive timely legislative updates and alerts about what you can do to help pass intergenerational legislation, please contact Jaia Peterson by emailing jpeterson@gu.org or calling 202-638-1263.



BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is an especially critical source of funding to states in this time because it provides flexible funding to states for a wider range of services to people of all ages.

make this legislation a priority unless they hear from their constituents and the White House that the program is important and provides essential services to communities. You can help educate your member of Congress about the value of this program by calling or writing your representative, senator and the White House and explaining why these intergenerational programs make a difference in your community. For information on how to contact your member of Congress or the White House, go to www.congress.org or call the capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121.

SOCIAL SERVICES BLOCK GRANT

This year states are facing increasingly tight budgets and many have been forced to cut essential services to children, youth, and seniors. The Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) is an especially critical source of funding to states in this time because it provides flexible funding to states for a wide range of services to people of all ages. SSBG can be used for services such as child and

adult protective services, services to people with disabilities, meals on wheels, transportation and child care. Funding for this program has been increasingly cut over the last several years by over \$1 billion. Intergenerational advocates need to educate Congress on the vital role this funding plays in the lives of our youngest and oldest citizens. Restoring SSBG to \$2.8 billion would help restore many valuable services that have been cut over the last decade.

MEDICAID

Over the last 38 years, the most vulnerable people in our country have relied on Medicaid to help provide health services that they cannot afford themselves and that no other plans provide. Medicaid works where no other plan does. It serves the health care needs of 40 million people, including low-income seniors, more than 20 million children, and disabled adults. Recent proposals by the administration have called to overhaul this program in a way that would pit children and older people against each other and place them at risk of losing

their health care coverage. The proposal would give a limited pot of money to the states to provide for the health care coverage of its residents. Unlike the current entitlement program which guarantees funding for every qualifying resident, the proposed program would limit the funding so that states may be forced to choose between funding long-term care for older people and doctor visits for children. Members of Congress need

to hear from you. If you support preserving Medicaid coverage for children and older people, contact your member of Congress and tell them to protect Medicaid and oppose proposals to block grant the program.

For up-to-date information on this and other legislation relevant to intergenerational programs, visit the legislative alert section of the GU web site at www.gu.org.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Addressing correspondence to a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

Addressing correspondence to a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (last name):

The congressional switchboard can give you the direct phone number of your senator or representative. That number is 202-224-3121. There are a number of web sites that allow you to either send a message or to find contact information. One such site is www.congress.org.

Arts Across the Ages, *continued from page 1*

work with the old and young to transform their life stories into dramatic, literary, and visual presentations. Each year, ESTA runs roughly twenty-five programs throughout New York City, reaching approximately five hundred workshop participants a week. Each spring, ESTA reaches thousands of New Yorkers at its Living History festivals that culminate year-long partnerships in communities throughout New York, and provide the opportunity, through performance and exhibitions, for cultures and generations to celebrate their unique histories and their common ground.

ESTA is just one of a growing movement of community based intergenerational arts programs that is gaining momentum across America. Since 1998, I have had the opportunity to visit other outstanding model programs throughout the country such as New World School of the Arts in Miami, Florida and Consortium for Elders and Youth in the Arts (CEYA) in San Francisco. There are also performing and presenting groups such as: Stage Bridge Theater in Oakland, California, Roots & Branches Theater in New York City, Continuum Dance Collective in New York City, Full Circle Theater Troupe in Philadelphia, and Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, Takoma Park, MD.

Programs like these recognize that arts bring people together on common ground. Intergenerational arts programs bring elders and students together to learn, create and promote awareness, acceptance and understanding. In a world where people are continually in a process of defining themselves and their communities, arts can be an integral part of student learning, self-expression and community building. Art plays an important role in not only in learning, but also healing, connecting, and celebrating life. It can build self-esteem and a sense of identity and belonging.

Group art activities emphasize exploring commonalities and differences and learning respect, tolerance, appreciation and enjoyment through the art form. The group process develops critical thinking and decision-making. Through the

artistic process, both young and old celebrate diversity through cultural expression. Cross-generational festivals, for example, bring performing arts groups together to create ceremonies in which participants recognize the special place of each generation and their respective cultures.

Arts are also a tool for social change in and out of institutions. Arts partnerships often bring unlikely partners to the table and give permission for stretching the imagination, decision-making and bringing new perspectives together through murals, plays and writing projects that open up a public discussion.

Festivals with public discussion serve as a platform for deepening relationships based on exploration and creativity. Art festivals are a way of connecting people in institutions and in community. They provide a place to come together to see, discuss, share, question, think, and appreciate each other. In a caring connected community, people are more likely to stay healthy because they look out for each other. Arts programs can create positive, invigorating, life-giving and life-sustaining activities.

Schools and senior organizations can also serve as venues for intergenerational arts through curriculum-based programs and community service learning programs. School-based programs integrate seniors into social studies and English classes. In "History Alive," students interview older people on the topic of discussion – immigration, work, family, life cycle, Depression, Wars, Civil rights – and

then together create dramatic scenes or artwork depicting the stories.

In community service learning programs, students receive credit for "Living History" arts programs in senior sites. Each "Living History" arts program partners children and youth with senior to create collaboration based on their life stories. Participants share experiences and stories about their heritages, life changes, and community issues that affect them. These stories serve as the cornerstone to community building as people recognize their commonalities and appreciate their differences. Sharing stories teaches both seniors and youth about conditions past and present. They get ~~40~~ 40 day out roles that give them a



Stagebridge Theater, Oakland California

Through a unique synthesis of oral history and the creative arts, ESTA staff work with the old and young to transform their life stories into dramatic, literary, and visual presentations.



Intergenerational mural project at Penn South Houses, Manhattan, New York.

"Every time I walk into the school and see the Community Tree mural, I'm reminded that we are all connected."

deeper understanding of the stages of life. At our community presentations, the audience sees itself reflected in the living history play, or mural, or writings of young and old. "That's me they're talking about!" they exclaim. "It's honest and about real life!"

One parent thanked the program for the fact that her child behaved more respectfully at home. She said that the oral history interviews brought their family closer together and added that she was proud to see her daughter on stage. Another parent said, "Every time I walk into the school and see the Community Tree mural, I'm reminded that we are all connected."

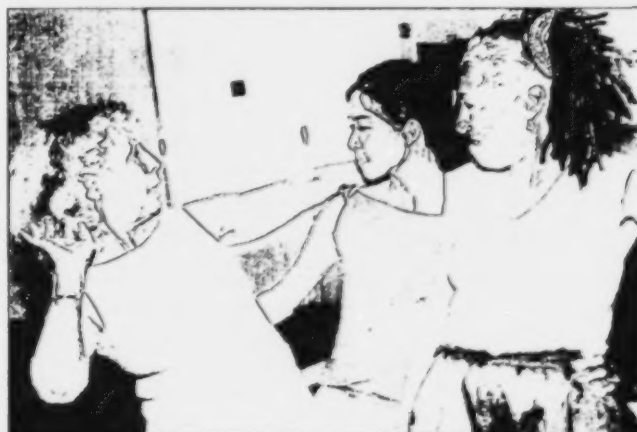
The following are just a few of the many outstanding and inspirational intergenerational arts programs across the country:

In Miami, the New World School of the Arts initiated **River Walk: An Intergenerational Multicultural Art Project** in collaboration with the University of Florida, Miami Dade Community college, Dade public schools and Dade nursing homes. Participating youth and seniors translated images of their ethnic heritages- Jewish, Cuban and African American- on to ceramic tiles, both brilliantly painted and in textured relief. These tiles formed "memory thrones" which were installed at the entrance of Miami's River Walk along Biscayne Bay. This exquisite public arts

project offered college credit to participating students, and is a moving example of intergenerational collaboration.

Consortium for Elders and Youth in the Arts (CEYA), is an artist-in-residence program sponsored by San Francisco's Institute on Aging, a multi-service organization that serves elders throughout the Bay area. CEYA seeks to address the social and spiritual needs of its clients. In the last stage of life, the individual's experiences are often rendered invisible in a nursing home or hospital. For example, in a CEYA mentorship program, students can learn Polish egg painting from an experienced elder craftsman, or make music with african elder drummers, or learn tin tile work. CEYA provides an infrastructure for planning, designing and implementing cross-generational projects and community presentations.

Liz Lerman Dance Exchange is a world renowned intergenerational dance company that is based in Takoma



Continuum Dance Collective, New York City

Park, Maryland. The company conducts community classes and workshops at senior centers, nursing homes, community centers as well as touring their outstanding productions and conducting residencies. They have inspired and trained dancers, teachers, healthcare professionals and others in the art of making dance in community settings.

Continuum Dance Collective, a project of ESTA, is an intergenerational dance company that celebrates "living history" through movement and word. They also conduct workshops and training in the uses of movement and personal story on themes primarily in New York City.

Full Circle Theater Troupe of the Center for Intergenerational Learning at Temple University in Philadelphia is an intergenerational ensemble of fifty teens and older adults who create improvisational, interactive performances and sociodramas on themes like ageism and the generation gap. These performances teach and promote conflict resolution. The company performs up to 150 times a



STAGEBRIDGE: YOUNG AND OLD IN THE SPOTLIGHT

By Dr. Stuart Kandell,
Director, Stagebridge

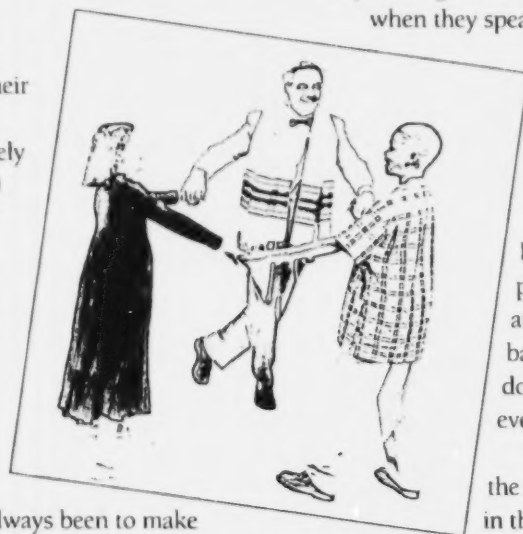
A nine-year-old girl is in the bathroom before the show, "Grandparents Tales," an annual performance of a play that brings to life popular children's books about grandparents. The director/playwright, Linda Spector, tells her "you better hurry up, the play's about to begin." The young girl turns to her and asks "Can't they just rewind it?"

The line between reality and fantasy can be so thin. And many children have little contact with their own grandparents or any older adults, like my daughters who rarely get to see their grandmother 3000 miles away. Instead children grow up with virtual images of what it means to grow old, relying on media stereotypes rather than real experience.

Since 1978, Stagebridge has been bridging the gap. Based in Oakland, California, the company is the nation's oldest senior theatre. Our mission has always been to make theatre and storytelling an opportunity for older adults and use these arts to bridge the generations by bringing together casts whose ages span as many as 8 decades.

Unlike actors, everyone is a storyteller. Everyone has a story. While I was researching my doctorate, I interviewed a 104-year-old Japanese woman about growing up with her grandmother in Feudal Japan, 100 years ago. The story was as present, as if it had happened yesterday. Gathered around her were her niece and nephew who had never heard any of these stories.

At the same time, I received an email on my bulletin board from a 10-year-old girl. "Dear Grandparents, I don't get stories from my grandparents or family, who are too busy.



Would you please send me some, so I can pass them on to my children?"

A hundred years of stories go unheard and a child cries into cyberspace for a story.

When grandparents share themselves through stories with their grandchildren, they pass on history, wisdom and love that are felt throughout a child's lifetime.

But why theatre and storytelling? Theatre is a public and transformative art. We don't try to blemish out the

wrinkles. There is no mistaking when our actors step on stage with canes, broken hips who they are. Yet, when they speak their lines, their spirit shines. They ignite the imagination and take the audience to a place never traveled. Like any good actors, they transform themselves and the audience.

And theatre is an ensemble art. So when Audrey has trouble getting out of bed at 6:00am to make an 8:30 performance, or Jerry learns that the tests are positive, or Cecil has to take her nitro backstage, the show must go on and it does. We don't have understudies, everyone's presence is vital.

When we were performing last week, the cast on stage was made up of four seniors in their 60's-80's, two young adults and two children—and a mix of cultures. At the end, a child wanted to know, "Are you a family?" Our ten year old actor, said "Well, sort of." This is the message of our stage. People of all ages and backgrounds can work together, learn from each other, have fun together and show their love for one another.

For more information, contact Dr. Stuart Kandell, Director, Stagebridge, and recipient of the first Warren Featherbone Award for Innovation in Connecting the Generations, 2501 Harrison, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 444-4755; www.stagebridge.org; staff@stagebridge.org

SOMETHING TO REMEMBER ME BY LEGACY PROJECT WINNERS

By Terence Kane
Public Policy Assistant

Congratulations to Andrea Carrington and grandfriend Mary Neal of Brooklyn, New York, the 2002 winners of The Something to Remember Me By Legacy Project Intergenerational Contest. The contest asked an older and younger person to team together and create an exchange under the theme "Some Things Change, Some Things Stay the Same."

Ms. Carrington and Ms. Neal's entry was a poetic dialogue discussing the generational gap in music. The poem encourages communication as a way of helping to understand the cultural differences between young and old. In the poem, twelve-year-old Andrea tries to defend rap music to Mary, her sixty five year old grandfriend. Both learn to appreciate each other's taste in music and avoid generational quarreling. For their winning poem they received A Lane Cedar Chest along with an IBM NetVista

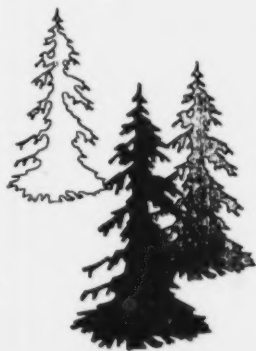
X41 Computer. The winning group along with ten runners-up received a specially autographed copy of *Something to Remember Me By*, the book that inspired the Legacy Project.

The Something to Remember Me By Legacy Project has four different contests throughout the year, including the Intergenerational Contest. The project is an initiative under the Parenting Coalition and Generations United, both based in Washington, DC. It has been developed and is coordinated by The Communication Project.

For more information contact Brian Puppia, Communication Project, 905-640-8914 or email tcp@tcpnow.com.

GU SEEKS INFORMATION ON INTERGENERATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS AND POLICIES

In preparation for a special upcoming pre-conference event, Generations United is seeking information on programs and policies that address environmental issues from an intergenerational perspective. If you have information about programs like these, please contact Sheri Steinig at Generations United at ssteinig@gu.org or 202-638-1263. For more information on our conference visit www.gu.org.



GENERATIONS UNITED MISSION

To improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs.

VISION:

A society that values all generations.

CORE BELIEFS:

We believe the time has come for advocates for children, youth and older persons to work together to build and support a common agenda. Each generation has unique strengths to help meet the needs of one another. Efforts to create more decent societies rest on the interdependence of generations — past, living, and still to come. Further we believe:

- Intergenerational collaboration will unite and improve our communities
- Every person, younger and older, is a resource and adds value
- Public policy should meet the needs of all generations
- Resources are more wisely used when they connect the generations rather than separate them
- Discrimination in any form limits a person's potential to contribute to the development of their community
- Grandparents and other relatives who step forward to raise children are providing an invaluable service to their families and our country.

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA- STILL TRAILBLAZING AFTER NINE YEARS



By Lorraine Marks,
Executive Director/Founder/ Conductor
New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra

With over 75 volunteer musicians, ages 5 to 91, the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra (NJIO) bridges the generations through a common love of music. Its mission is to bring a quality music program to the community that will educate and enlighten both members and audiences by demonstrating the power of music to bring together people of all backgrounds and ages.

During the past nine years, it has consciously nurtured the belief that senior citizens can share their wisdom and become vital resources for children. By bringing the youth and the older person together to share musical experiences, it has promoted mutual growth and fostered understanding between generations. The camaraderie builds from the ability to teach and the eagerness to learn, when the young and still young at heart share music stands and experiences throughout the season. The NJIO dubbed New Jerseys 'most eclectic' orchestra performs a mix of music ranging from classical to jazz to pop. Each season NJIO performs two concerts in its Cranford, N.J. home and at least two to three concerts in other venues in the New York Metropolitan area. The orchestra has performed in Madrid, Spain, at the Lincoln Center Plaza, The United Nations, The U.S Capitol, Kean University, the Newark Museum, and the Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation.

NJIO has contributed to the communities and orchestras musical experience and has quickly become a forum where the public is introduced to well-known musicians and master teachers of varied musical instruments, such as jazz

violinist John Blake, renowned bassist Reggie Workman, oboe virtuoso Oscar Petty, NY Philharmonic violinist Oscar Ravina, and renowned composer, Benjamin Lees.

The NJIO and its conductor, Lorraine Marks, have received numerous civic and cultural awards, including pride Awards from the New Jersey Monthly Magazine and the Courier News. The orchestra was featured on local and national television including CBS Windows on America, CBS News Tonight, and NBC's Four Stories in addition to national magazines such as Family Circle America Profiles Magazine, Hope Magazine, Symphony Magazine and others.

In the spring of 2002, NJIO sent an Intergenerational chamber group to perform

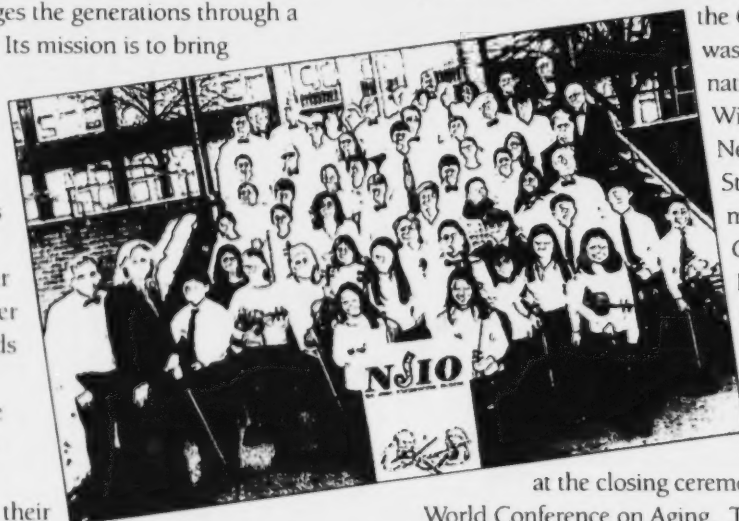
at the closing ceremony of the United Nations

World Conference on Aging. The NJIO participated in a multilingual workshop given by Lorraine Marks on "Healthy Aging Through Music".

NJIO will perform at the Lincoln Center Plaza concert Series in New York in the spring. The NJIO has been invited to play in the Washington D.C area in the fall of 2003 at the Generations United International Conference and will play in other venues while in the nation's capitol. NJIO will celebrate its 10th Anniversary next year and plans are underway for a Gala Performance.

We are proud to present programs, which combine the efforts and talents of amateur and professional musicians, young and old, in the true spirit of "bridging the generations through music".

For more information about the NJIO you may visit our website at www.njio.org or reach us at 908-709-0084.



GU WELCOMES NEW STAFF

KAJA SNELL

Kaja Snell has joined Generations United as the new Manager for the National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. Her primary responsibilities include leading a national effort to provide training and technical assistance to professionals in the aging network who are implementing programs to support these caregivers and the children they are raising, supervising and analyzing a national survey of the aging network to assess their training and technical assistance needs, authoring and editing GU publications and assisting with their dissemination.

Additionally, Kaja will facilitate collaboration on activities with other national groups, electronic communication among partners, and represent GU at meetings and conferences across the United States.



Kaja has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Baylor University in Waco, TX. She received her Master's Degree in Gerontology from the Leonard Davis School of Gerontology at the University of Southern California, Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. Kaja has worked on issues related to aging from various perspectives including: academics, healthcare and policy. As part of her graduate program, she completed an Administrator In Training program at a private skilled nursing facility in Long Beach, California. She comes to us from the United States Senate Special Committee on Aging, where she worked assisting committee staff and the former Chairman, Senator Breaux, with research and hearings related to Long Term Care issues, Elder Abuse and Media, Marketing & Aging.

Kaja is excited about joining the GU team and spreading the word about the contemporary need for, intergenerational programs and agendas - understanding that in the future an intergenerational approach offers the greatest solution to many of societies struggles and a better life for the most vulnerable.

PROGRAM UPDATE

continued from page 7

Myth: Older adults + children = instant intergenerational magic.

One false belief is that by merely coming into contact with one another, young and old will immediately connect and understand each other; and that bonding and relationships between the generations will occur magically and automatically, without any need for outside guidance. In reality, it takes planning and concentrated efforts to successfully prepare young and old to be comfortable with one another. Lack of adequate preparation and training may lead to mistrust and reinforce stereotypes. Intergenerational partners will not learn how to relate to or interact with one another. The program will flounder, discouraging future attempts to bring young and old together. Intergenerational connections may be magic, but magic takes work.

Myth: An intergenerational program must be large-scale to make a significant impact.

An emphasis on large-scale projects is daunting and discouraging to developers of small programs. Programs significance does not depend on size alone. Other indicators of significance include: the strength of the participants' skills, the strengths of the relationships among young and old partners, the positive impact of the project in the community, and the program's reputation in the community and relationships with other organizations. Avoid becoming too locked into quotas or program size. Don't let modesty of scale prevent you from transforming intergenerational ideas into action.

For more information on GU's intergenerational program efforts, please contact GU at (202) 638-1263 or gu@gu.org.

AN ENVIRONMENT DESIGNED FOR ALL AGES



By Kim Modrynski and Cynthia Ethington
PACE Architects

With 90% percent of our lives spent within the built environment its design is of utmost importance. In intergenerational design, the space must be designed to accommodate a variety of ages. The challenge: having all of the age groups want to be in the space. The solution: creative use of color, natural light, home-like elements and finishes; and incorporating scale that is appropriate and inviting for many ages.

This room is designed for children; however appropriately scaled furniture is also available for staff and parents.

Implementing these elements in the built environment can be achieved a number of ways. Color introduced in spaces for children should be bright and playful, sparking inspiration and imagination; whereas, color in spaces for adults should be warm and soothing, creating contrast which enhances safety and way-finding. Natural light is a crucial element for the built environment; it brings a part of the outdoors in by use of windows, skylights, dormers, and transoms. Having home-like elements and finishes such as wood moldings and casework, carpet, window treatments, and furniture add a familiar ambiance to any space. In a space designed for children and adults, scale of furniture should vary to fit different body sizes. These elements allow for individuals to take ownership in a space, making each person feel comfortable and wanting to spend more time there.

Flexibility in the design can encourage activity and allow for changes. Flexibility can be created by the size and configuration of an area, and by using movable partitions and furniture to change the function and dynamics of a room. Ease is a factor that must not be overlooked. Furniture should be lightweight or possibly stackable, and comfort should not be compromised. The space planning of small furniture groupings in a large room could result in many opportunities for intimate gathering areas. General or



non-assigned areas should be created to promote contact and communication. These general areas include circulation paths such as hallways and creating adjacencies between certain areas.

Safety is a critical concern in the design of an intergenerational center. A central entrance that can be monitored is important. Creating a design which allows for

Creating a design which allows for visibility to all areas of the center also increases safety for the participants. Circulation that is free from tripping hazards and accessible to people with disabilities creates a safe environment for all users.

visibility to all areas of the center also increases safety for the participants. Circulation that is free from tripping hazards and accessible to people with disabilities creates a safe environment for all users. Visibility from this centralized reception desk enhances safety and security.

Movement also includes the reality that there is a starting point and a destination. The journey to a destination in an unfamiliar building is often half the battle. Way-finding has yet another unique twist for intergenerational design. Signage can be used to give directions to a destination or denote a room number. Color, shape, pattern, and theme are a few additional design techniques used as a means of way-finding. Floor patterning and color can create paths or draw attention to a destination.

New Kinship Curriculum!

Published by the Child Welfare League of America

A Tradition of Caring: Information, Resources, and Support for Kinship Families

A Tradition of Caring is a comprehensive six-module, nine-session curriculum, providing kinship caregivers with 27 hours of valuable information and support related to kinship care. Sessions are designed to facilitate interaction and the sharing of experiences and support among participants. Meetings utilize a task-based, strengths-oriented approach to learning. During the course of this program, each participant develops a comprehensive individualized action plan for accessing needed resources and meeting identified family needs.

Modules focus on key concerns, including:

- General kinship care issues
- Supporting healthy child growth and development
- Accessing needed resources
- Addressing changes in family dynamics
- Promoting children's needs for lifelong connections
- Understanding and navigating the formal child welfare system.

The program has been created for use by a broad spectrum of agencies: elder service programs; community social service and mental health agencies; kinship care resource centers; faith-affiliated, community-based, or other types of support groups; and public and private child welfare organizations. Rather than functioning primarily as a trainer, the person managing the group assumes the role of facilitator. Sessions are designed to allow the facilitator flexibility to respond to the needs, dynamics, and make-up of each group.

2003/0-87868-848-X-/8480GU

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NEWLY AVAILABLE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDES

The Children's Defense Fund has created four helpful guides, written specifically for kinship caregivers, to answer their questions about important issues affecting the children in their care. These guides offer information on federal programs, eligibility requirements, and how to enroll the children they are raising.

- THE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO CHILD CARE AND EARLY EDUCATION
- THE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO FOOD AND NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN
- THE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO HEALTH INSURANCE FOR CHILDREN
- THE GRANDPARENT'S AND OTHER RELATIVE CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO RAISING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES



There is no charge for single copies of each guide. For multiple copies there will be a fee for postage, shipping, and handling. To order contact the Children's Defense Fund at: 202-662-3652 or email childwelfare@childrensdefense.org. (Please note this phone number was listed incorrectly in our last issue. The corrected number and email are listed above.)

GU WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER



DEBORAH DERBY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
ASSOCIATE RELATIONS &
ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
TOYS "R" US, INC.

Deborah Derby is Senior Vice President, Associate Relations and Organizational Effectiveness for

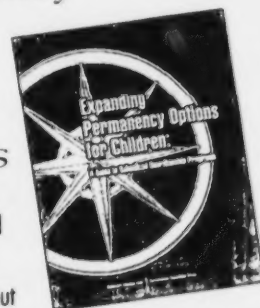
Toys "R" Us, Inc. In this position, she oversees the field Human Resource organization for five of the company's divisions – Toys "R" Us U.S., Kids "R" Us, Babies "R" Us, Imaginarium and Toysrus.com – as well as for the Corporate offices and distribution centers. This includes spearheading all policy development and managing all aspects of employee relations.

Prior to joining Toys "R" Us, Inc., Deborah spent eight years at Whirlpool Corporation in various Human Resource roles, most recently as Corporate Director, Compensation and Benefits. She joined Whirlpool from the law firm Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone, where she was an attorney specializing in employment law. Prior to that, she worked as a Financial Analyst for Goldman Sachs and spent a year working from the company's London offices.

Deborah received a BA in Economics from Harvard University and her MBA and JD from the University of Notre Dame. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Michigan Bar Association and the Society for Human Resource Professionals.

Deborah lives in Mahwah, N.J., with her husband Daniel Pupel, Jr. and their two children, Rose and Brian.

Expanding Permanency Options for Children: A Guide to Subsidized Guardianship Programs



This new publication from Children's Defense Fund provides a primer on subsidized guardianship, including basic and state specific information about subsidized programs, who they serve, why they are needed, and how they are funded. It discusses a range of policy issues for state and local agencies to consider when starting a new subsidized guardianship program or expanding an existing one.

To order contact the Children's Defense Fund at: 202-662-3652 or email childwelfare@childrensdefense.org

ENVIRONMENT, *continued from page 18*



An intergenerational center promotes interaction between all age groups. General or non-assigned areas such as circulation paths, including hallways and adjacencies of rooms, should be

created to promote incidental contact.

Designing an intergenerational space is a unique and exciting genre of design. Each of the elements summarized are important for intergenerational design, but not mandatory. Form a 'criteria list' for your program to follow and stay on track. The environment of your intergenerational program should reflect its values, individuality, and the people involved in it.

For more information contact Kim Modrynski (km@pacearchitects.com) or Cynthia Ethington (ce@pacearchitects.com) PACE Architects, S.C., Milwaukee, WI, 414-273-3369 x15.

On the Road

GU continues to promote the intergenerational message through presentations, workshops and speeches throughout the country. Information about upcoming events is listed below.

APRIL

3-6

Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine Spring Conference and Relatives as Parents Program Statewide Network Meeting-Families and Children Together (FACT) and the University of Maine Center on Aging, Bangor, ME, Caroline Crocoll with Janet Sainer of the Brookdale Foundation.

10

49th Annual Kirkpatrick Conference, Muncie, IN, "Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Challenges and Joys," Jaia Peterson

9-12

Southern Gerontological Society 24th Annual Meeting "New Elders, New Care" Richmond, VA. "The Challenge Of Kinship Care: Addressing The Supportive Service Needs Of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren," Caroline Crocoll.

MAY

1

Metro Washington DC Chapter of National

Association of Social Workers Conference. Washington, DC. "Looking Across Generations: Intergenerational Solutions in Communities," Sheri Steinig and Jaia Peterson.

12-17

33rd Annual National Foster Parents Association Education Conference, Des Moines, IA. "The KinNET Project: Building a National Network of Support Groups for Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Kin in Foster Care," Caroline Crocoll.

14-17

Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension

Service: Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) 2003 Conference, Minneapolis, MN. "Intergenerational Programming & Extension: Intervention and Inquiry," Caroline Crocoll, Matt Kaplan, and Allison Nichols.

JUNE

9

Points of Light Foundation Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD, "Legacy," Donna Butts.

28-JULY 1

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conferences. Washington, DC.

"Developing a Theoretical Framework for Training Senior Volunteers Working with Children and Young Adults with Special Needs," Caroline Crocoll.

AUGUST

21-22

Indiana University Center of Philanthropy Conference, Indianapolis, IN, "Intergenerational Service-Learning and Philanthropy," Donna Butts

If you would like to schedule someone from Generations United to address your conference or event, call 202-638-1263 or email gu@gu.org

INCREASE YOUR INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING SKILLS!

ATTEND THE GENERATIONS TOGETHER INTERGENERATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE JULY 9-11

Generations Together's 11th Annual Intergenerational Training Institute will take place from July 9-11 at the University of Pittsburgh. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Valerie Kuehne, prominent intergenerational author and researcher from the University of Victoria, British Columbia. This two-day Institute features interactive workshops designed to develop and increase intergenerational program development skills including recruiting, training, and evaluation. "How-to" workshops on Service learning, Building Intergenerational Teams, Intergenerational Wellness, and Diverse Programs in Schools will also be offered. New sessions include Qualitative and Quantitative Research Methods, Intergenerational 101, and Grant Writing. For more information visit or request information at 866-216-1223.

BOOK REVIEW-

TIME TO CARE: REDESIGNING CHILD CARE TO PROMOTE EDUCATION, SUPPORT FAMILIES, AND BUILD COMMUNITIES

BY JOAN LOMBARDI

Review comments from Shelley Levin
Early Childhood Manager,
Oakton Community College, Des Plaines, Illinois

In *Time to Care*, Joan Lombardi outlines a straightforward approach to integrate and enhance the education and care of young children and youth, while supporting families and fostering a sense of community through civic engagement. Lombardi's vision is grounded in her understanding of child care over the past century. She addresses the roles families, community, and legislation have played in our society's current state of child care. In a reflective, logical narrative, Lombardi shares her vision and inspires hope for a comprehensive, community model for successful child care in the 21st century. Her model includes and promotes the involvement of older Americans in a key role.

In the first chapter, Lombardi describes seven principles that "should shape our new image of child care." Briefly stated, those principles are:

1. *Child care is an opportunity.*
2. *The child care setting "is not exclusively a home or a school."*
3. *Child care for young children is not the same as child care for school-age children.*
4. *The heart of any good child care program is the relationship between the children and the provider, and the relationship between the provider and the parents.*
5. *Child care is not an isolated service for children; rather it should be seen as a hub of support for families.*
6. *Child care is not a private responsibility, but must be a public service.*
7. *Because child care supports children and families, it is everyone's business to get involved.*

Each subsequent chapter addresses these basic principles and how they relate to each other.

Of particular interest is chapter 5, in which Lombardi discusses "The Caring Community", which responds to the seventh principle: "...it's everyone's business to get involved" in child care. Lombardi gives a comprehensive overview of the many people, agencies and institutions that demonstrate how child and youth care needs are being met by the engagement of older adults. Lombardi further points out

Lombardi gives a comprehensive overview of the many people, agencies and institutions that demonstrate how child and youth care needs are being met by the engagement of older adults.

how these intergenerational initiatives are also known to build community, by giving roles and lending purpose and value to all members of society. Citing grandparents and kinship care as one huge, previously overlooked and undervalued segment of the child care network, Lombardi also makes note of a variety of other ways that older citizens can and do create and strengthen our fragmented, otherwise primarily family resource-depleting, system of child care. Older adults as participants in early childhood classrooms, homebound seniors who provide safety-nets to latch-key school-agers, and co-located and/or shared site intergenerational programs are described as important fibers in the quilt of civic engagement and successful child care.

Noting research in this area,

professional networks comprised of early childhood educators, gerontologists, and social service professionals; and corporate child care center initiatives, Lombardi's vision encompasses all kinds of child care needs, all types of programs, and all levels of community involvement to explain her seven guiding principles and make her case.

Time to Care offers a practical approach to the new image of an inclusive community-based system of child and youth care and opportunity. Lombardi demonstrates a clear understanding of the interplay of economics, legislation, and family needs—both from an historical perspective and with a contemporary viewpoint. Her reasoning is sound, it provides an irrefutable, sensible platform that calls for involvement from all of society—from families, from legislators, and from community—as the hope and justice for our future. It is, after all, in the hands of the children.

For more information or to order a copy of *Time to Care*, visit www.temple.edu/tempress

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

5-7

Child Welfare League of America's National Center of Professional Development's 2003 Conference "Finding Better Ways," in Washington D.C. For more information visit www.cwla.org

7-8

Kansas Department on Aging 2003 Governor's Conference on Aging Services, Topeka, KN. For more information call 800-432-3535.

18-24

Intergenerational Week, For more information visit www.gu.org

JUNE

21

Join Hands Day, For more information visit www.joinhandsday.org

JULY

9-11

Generations Together 11th Annual Intergenerational Training Institute Pittsburgh, PA. For more information call 866-216-1223.

20-23

Alzheimer's Association, 11th National Alzheimer's Disease Education Conference, Chicago, IL. For more information visit www.alz.org

12-16

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging 28th Annual Conference, "Discover the Difference A Partnership Makes," Baltimore, MD. For more information visit www.n4a.org

30-AUG 1

Child Welfare League of America Kinship Care Conference, Philadelphia, PA. For more information visit www.cwla.org

SEPTEMBER

4-6

Institute for Family-Centered Care's 1st International Conference on Family-Centered Care, "Advancing the Quality of Health Care in the 21st Century," Boston, MA. For more information visit www.familycenteredcare.org

OCTOBER

5

Intergeneration Day, For more information visit www.intergenerationday.org

15-18

Generations United's 12th International Conference, "Uniting Generations to Build a Better World," Old Town Alexandria, VA. For more information visit www.GU.org

26-29

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Meeting and Exposition, Denver, CO. For more information visit www.aahsa.org

NOVEMBER

5-8

National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference, Chicago IL. For more information visit www.naeyc.org

7

"Creating A Society for All Ages Through Intergenerational Strategies," New York Intergenerational Conference. For more information email: igstrats@optonline.net

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BECOME A GENERATIONS UNITED MEMBER TODAY

Generations United is the only national membership organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational policies, strategies and programs. Members support the work of GU and can provide direct input into GU's priorities.

Membership benefits include:

- annual subscription to *Together*, GU's quarterly newsletter
- conference and educational event discounts
- public policy alerts and briefings
- access to our national program profile database
- linkage to GU's web page
- discounts on GU publications
- and much more!

Join Generations United today to support and strengthen the intergenerational movement nationally and in Washington, DC. If you have any questions, please contact us at 202-638-1263.

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☐ Organization membership-Based on a sliding scale.

Contact GU directly for more information before sending in form.

* Contributions above the basic membership fee support the work of Generations United and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Please make check payable to Generations United and return to: Generations United 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001-2109

NEW RESOURCES

BEHIND THE SCENES: STORIES FROM GENERATIONS UNITED FIRST INTERGENERATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

GU is pleased to announce the release of the new publication, *Behind the Scenes: Stories from Generations United First Intergenerational Photography Contest*. Behind the Scenes



presents a compilation of the stories behind the winning photographs from our 2001 Intergenerational Photography Contest, sponsored by MetLife Foundation. Through interviews with the photographers and the subjects, this publication captures and shares background about the photographs, the photographers' feelings about photography, peoples' values regarding intergenerational relationships, and the impact of winning GU's Intergenerational Photo Contest on both photographers and subjects.

Reading the stories brings the viewer into the scene captured on film. The feelings of admiration, respect, and love between the children, young people, and older adults in the photographs are even more apparent when one learns about the relationship between them, whether they knew each other for many years or just one day. GU offers this publication as a way to capture not only the powerful stories behind the photographs, but also the significant impact intergenerational relationships make in the lives of younger and older people. Visit the GU website at www.gu.org to download your copy of *Behind the Scenes* or use the Book Order Form in this newsletter to order your own copy.

THE PARENTS WHO CARE® PROGRAM, is a step-by-step guide for families with teens. The program includes a facilitator's manual with advice on setting up and implementing sessions, a video for families working through challenges, and a parent workbook. To order call 800-499-6464.

ABSTRACTS IN SOCIAL GERONTOLOGY: CURRENT LITERATURE ON AGING, provides a comprehensive source of information about gerontological related publications worldwide. Subjects include housing, psychology of aging, and adult education. To order visit www.sagepub.com.

JOURNAL OF AGING AND HEALTH, explores the relationship between gerontology and health, concentrating on social and behavioral factors. The journal presents perspectives from a wide variety of disciplines, including allied health, psychology, behavioral science, social services, and nursing. To order visit www.sagepub.com.

JOURNAL OF APPLIED GERONTOLOGY, looks at the gerontological practice and policy with applicability to the health care and quality of life of older persons. To order visit www.sagepub.com.

ACTIVE PARENTING PUBLISHERS 2003 REFERENCE GUIDE, the guide offers video-based education programs to help professionals on a variety of topics. To order visit www.activeparenting.com.

LEARNING & GROWING TOGETHER WITH FAMILIES, a video training package offers a video, book, and user guide designed to teach child care specialists how to help young children and their families build self-awareness, and flexible responses. To order call 800-899-4301.

SUPPORTING THE KINSHIP TRIAD, a five day curriculum for public and private agency workers to help understand and appreciate kinship care. The curriculum seeks to build a professional foundation for working with the kinship triad: the child, the parent and the caregiver. To order visit www.cwla.org/pubs.

A TRADITION OF CARING: INFORMATION, RESOURCES, AND SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP FAMILIES, a six module, nine session curriculum providing kinship caregivers with information and support related to kinship care. Sessions are designed to facilitate interaction and the sharing of experiences and support among participants. To order visit www.cwla.org/pubs.

"BIG MAMA" HIGHLIGHTS GRANDPARENT CAREGIVING

by Terence Kane
Public Policy Assistant

LL Cool J, the most successful selling rap artist of all time recently released a new single celebrating the importance of his grandmother in his life. Entitled "Big Mama" the song credits his grandmother's strong parenting for his success in life. The song appears on LL's new album "10" aptly named for his tenth album release in seventeen years of recording. The album has climbed to as high as number two on billboard's top 100 chart and after seventeen years it is clear LL's success at the record stores shows no signs of slowing down.

"Big Mama" draws attention to the millions of grandparents who are raising grandchildren in the United States. Millions more play a supportive role in raising children across the country. According to the U.S. Census data, 2.5 million grandparents across the country are primarily responsible for their grandchildren. LL Cool J stands for Ladies Love Cool James and his affection for his late grandmother is proclaimed loudly on 'Big Mama'. Growing up in Queens N.Y., LL's parents divorced at an early age and his grandmother was there to nurture and provide support for him. LL highlights the important role many grandparents play in the lives of grandchildren:

"A toast to a woman that raised a man

In popular demand all across the land

You're my lawyer, my teacher, my doctor, my friend

My mother, my father, you with me 'til the end"

Her advice continues to influence LL, fans will notice that "10" is entirely free of profanity at the request of his grandmother before she passed away. In recognition for his role in drawing attention to the powerful roles grandparents play in children's lives, LL has been invited to Generation United's International Conference to be held October 15th-18th in Alexandria, Virginia.

KIDSEGE.COM BRINGS EDUCATIONAL CHARACTERS HOME

A new resource available to families will bring popular educational characters Reader Rabbit and



Carmen Sandiego to kids via the internet. The new resource offered by publisher Riverdeep and Internet web site KidsEdge will offer educational opportunities at www.KidsEdge.com.

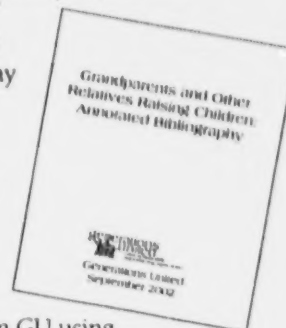
KidsEdge features over 200 educational games and activities targeted to young children. Annual membership costs \$29.95 per family, and each family can register as many as eight family members. In addition to full access to KidsEdge, members also receive such benefits as progress reports and resources for parents and grandparents, a free Internet safety filter, prizes for kids, and special discounts on educational products.

KidsEdge is designed to foster family communication and growth by providing activities and resources that allow all family members to stay informed and participate in a child's educational development. Sarina Simon, the President of Knowledge Kids Network, believes the resource will be an excellent intergenerational tool: "We hope that KidsEdge...will foster stronger intergenerational relationships, allowing grandparents to be the natural role models that they are, regardless of geographical boundaries."

For more information call 800-564-2587 or visit www.kidsedge.com.

NEW!!! KINSHIP CARE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Generations United has compiled an annotated bibliography of resources on grandparents and other relatives raising children. The bibliography includes over 70 pages of audiovisual resources, books, reports, guides, journal articles, research studies, training manuals and curricula, popular press and national websites. To access the bibliography go to www.gu.org or order a copy from GU using the book order form in this newsletter.



CALLING CAREGIVERS TO SHARE YOUR STORIES

At Generations United we know sharing life's stories develops an essential link between people, between generations. Every life is a story worth sharing and can touch, teach and encourage people in ways you may not know or imagine. The experience of grandparent or kin caring for a child is an important part of the picture of caregiving today.

Generations United is partnering with the National Family Caregivers Association in an effort to help provide a national chorus of stories from grandparents and other relatives raising children that have special needs. Stories can encourage other grandparents that are raising children and can raise awareness and support among members of Congress and state legislators, healthcare professionals and others.

If you work with grandparents or other relatives raising children with special needs, encourage them submit a short story about their caregiving situation and experience. From any computer with Internet access, simply go to the National Family Caregiver Association website: www.nfcacares.org. Click on the logo-link to the National Family Caregiver Story Project and follow simple directions to access stories recently sent in by other family caregivers and add a story of your own.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

GENERATIONS UNITED

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State Legislative Update

continued from page 8

eighteen years of age or older.

1. Name of minor:
2. Minor's birth date:
3. My name (adult giving authorization):
4. My home address:
5. My telephone number:
6. () I am a grandparent, aunt, uncle, or other qualified relative of the minor:
7. Check one or both (for example, if one parent was advised and the other cannot be located):
 - I have advised the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor of my intent to authorize medical care, and have received no objection.
 - I am unable to contact the parent(s) or other person(s) having legal custody of the minor at this time, to notify them of my intended authorization.
8. My date of birth:
9. My Washington driver's license or identification card number:

Finally, the legislation calls for the establishment of an oversight committee to monitor, guide, and report on kinship care recommendations and implementation activities. This committee would consist of at least 30 percent kinship caregivers, in addition to child advocates and government, business, tribal, non-profit, legal, and judicial representatives.

For additional information about this legislation, contact Hilari Hauptman of the Adult & Aging Services Administration,

Washington Department of Social and Health Services at (360) 725-2556 or HauptHP@dshs.wa.gov.

WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Legislature's Legislative Council has appointed a special committee on relative caregiving. It has held five meetings during which ideas to help support the families have been discussed. Grandparent caregivers, Mary-Brintnall Peterson of the Wisconsin Cooperative-Extension, and other interested advocates have testified before the committee.

The latest meeting was held on January 24th and included discussion of several draft bills. None of these bills have been introduced to date, but the drafts include provisions to assist children being raised by relatives both inside and outside the formal foster care system. Among the draft bills are various concerning financial assistance supports, including child care subsidies. The committee has posted all the testimony and draft bills on the Internet at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/2002studies/CARE/index.htm>.

For more information concerning the committee's work, contact Mary Brintnall-Peterson of the University of Wisconsin-Extension, and Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Partnership of Wisconsin at 608-262-8083 or mary.brintnall-peterson@uwex.edu.



INTERGENERATION DAY

OCTOBER 5, 2003

For more information visit www.intergenerationday.org

Arts Across the Ages,
continued from page 11

*Old and young find their voices, express themselves
in a resonant reaffirmation of their life stories and
cultural heritage and in doing so, promote
multicultural acceptance and understanding.*

year and has raised funds for projects that address specific issues like AIDS and violence.

Roots & Branches Theater is a multi-generational theater group based at the Jewish Association for Services for the Aged and directed by Arthur Strimling. The older actors are from the community (the upper west side of Manhattan) and the younger actors are students and recent graduates from NYU and other acting programs in the city. Each year the ensemble creates and performs an original play built from a workshop process that includes life stories, improvisation, discussion and text work. This unique program trains theater students and young actors to work in communities of elders.

The National Endowment for the Arts recognizes the astronomical growth of arts programs engaging elders and their communities. National Center for Creative Aging (NCCA) was recently founded to foster an understanding of the vital relationship between creative expression and healthy aging and to develop programs to build on that understanding by offering professional trainings, supporting the replication of best-practice models throughout the country, developing and disseminating resource materials, serving as a clearinghouse for the exchange of information, and supporting research, policy and advocacy. A significant aspect of creative aging is intergenerational arts programs.

As America ages, incorporating intergenerational arts partnerships will help to fundamentally change the nature of relationships between young and old. Old and young find their voices, express themselves in a resonant reaffirmation of their life stories and cultural heritage and in doing so, promote multicultural acceptance and understanding. Intergenerational art programs bridge the gap through their potential to connect people and systems in meaningful life-giving ways.

*If you are interested in learning more about the arts and intergenerational programs, please contact NCCA/ESTA
Address: 138 South Oxford Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217. Phone:
718-398-3870. E-mail: ncca@creativeaging.org*

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

GU is pleased to announce the creation of a special fund to bring international participants to the Generations United and International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) Biennial International Conferences. Your support is needed. Practitioners from many countries are developing innovative intergenerational initiatives, but have limited resources for international travel. Their participation would both enrich these meetings and further the growth of intergenerational programs in their countries. To make a contribution to this important fund, please contact GU at www.gu.org or 202-638-1263.



May 18-24, 2003

Plan Now to Celebrate Intergenerational Week
For more information visit www.gu.org

Generations United

International Conference



SAVE THE DATE

October 15-18, 2003

Old Town Alexandria, VA

(minutes from Washington, D.C.)

Generations United is pleased to announce that our 12th International Conference will be held October 15-18, 2003, in Alexandria, Virginia, outside of Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Generations United at 202-638-1263 or gu@gu.org Please save these dates and we hope to see you there!

◦ Special Grandparenting Workshops available



**Intergenerational Approaches:
United Generations to Build A Better World**

For more information, call 202-638-1263

E-MAIL: GU@GU.ORG or visit WWW.GU.ORG

GENERATIONS UNITED BOOK ORDER FORM

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★ Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Support in the Workplace	\$7.00	_____	_____
★ Behind the Scenes: Stories from Generations United's First Intergenerational Photography Contest	\$5.00	_____	_____
★ Reaching Across the Ages: An Action Agenda to Strengthen Communities Through Intergenerational Shared Sites and Resources	\$10.00	_____	_____
★ Kinship Care Annotated Bibliography	\$5.00	_____	_____
.....			
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Young and Old Serving Together: Meeting Community Needs Through Intergenerational Partnerships Newly Revised	\$10.00	_____	_____
Older Adults Caring for Children: Intergenerational Child Care	\$15.00	_____	_____
Celebrate the Generations: Intergenerational Week Guidebook	\$10.00	_____	_____
Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 107 th Congress (FREE TO MEMBERS)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Something to Remember Me By & Building Connections Between Young & Old. (Hardback)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Building Connections Between Young and Old (A readers companion to <i>Something to Remember Me By.</i>)	\$1.00	_____	_____
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 Mary Stamstad
 Janelle Steckley



SAY CHEESE!

Generations United is pleased to announce our third Intergenerational Photography Contest sponsored by the MetLife Foundation. We are seeking the best photographs taken by younger or older amateur photographers of younger and older people together. The photographs should capture the power and beauty of intergenerational relationships and convey the important roles that younger and older people play in each other's lives.



We encourage you to be creative, to take candid shots of intergenerational relationships in action, or to plan intergenerational activities where younger and older participants are taking photographs. The grand-prize winner will be flown to Washington, DC to be honored at GU's Annual Awards Dinner on October 16th, 2003 during GU's international conference.

PRIZES:

- Grand prize: \$250 and trip to Washington, DC to attend GU's Annual Awards Dinner.
- Second place: \$100.
- Third place: \$50.
- All winners whose photographs are used in any GU publication or display will receive credit for the photograph.

DEADLINES:

- All entries must be postmarked to GU by June 30, 2003 in order to be considered for the contest.
- Winners will be notified no later than 2 months after the deadline.

ELIGIBILITY:

- Contest is open to children and youth up to 21 years of age, and adults over the age of 50.
- All entries received by the deadline will be considered for the contest.
- Only amateur photographs may be submitted.

For official rules and regulations and entry forms visit the GU website at www.gu.org. For more information on the photo contest contact GU at gu@gu.org or 202-638-1263.

Together



THE GENERATIONS UNITED NEWSLETTER • Volume 8 • Number 3 • 2003

SOMEONE OLD, SOMEONE YOUNG, SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT: FACES OF INNOVATION ACROSS THE AGES

By Bard Lindeman
Syndicated Columnist

Mr. N

On the north side of Philadelphia, not far from Temple University, there is a neighborhood held captive by poverty. Drugs, street crime, and random violence: these are area blights. It is here, however, that Across Ages, an innovative mentoring program, chose to "make a difference."

It is here, then, that well-intentioned men and women older than 55,



Photo by Tatyana Janczura

wide-eyed volunteers wearing sensible shoes, teamed with conflicted, troubled middle school kids. Their assignment: help one another. The goal: find a path out, and away, from recurring trouble for these kids from the middle school.

The year was 1991. Today, over 10 years later, the once-experimental drug intervention program is celebrated, replicated in more than 50 other sites, the subject of a book, and has earned credits and plaudits from knowledgeable social agencies, both inside government and throughout the private sector.

In the language of the street: "Across Ages done real good..." In the words of the United Nations: Across Ages is recognized as the 2002 Exemplary Model (North American Region) for Lessons Learned in Drug Abuse Prevention.

Andrea S. Taylor, Ph.D., 57, of Temple's Center for Intergenerational Learning, is founder and executive director of Across Ages. Recently, Generations United interviewed Dr. Taylor.

Q. Why is your program successful?

A. I'm a sociologist, and a program researcher. I could

give you a long, involved answer. Let me, however, quote a single line from our book: "Mentoring Across Generations," (Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers; 2000, written with Jeanette Bressler)—

"The Across Ages story is of older adult volunteers and vulnerable youth reaching across generations to bond and heal." We believe that youth and older adults should be regarded as resources—and never as deficits.

Q. So, you're saying it's about people, and these senior men and women work their magic with kids?

A. At first, there's very little that's magical. It's hard work, and long hours. We expect our mentors to give a minimum of four hours per week in face to face contact with the youth, or mentee. We train them not to be judgmental, and they are not to be disciplinarians. The families fill that role. Above all, they must be good listeners.

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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: DONNA BUTTS



One of my favorite members of the Buena Vista Social Club, Compay Segundo, passed away recently at age 95. In an interview about two years ago when asked why he still kept such a busy schedule he replied, "I can't get tired, I'm still needed."

I thought of this quote early this summer when speaking to a packed house at the Interages volunteer recognition brunch. The

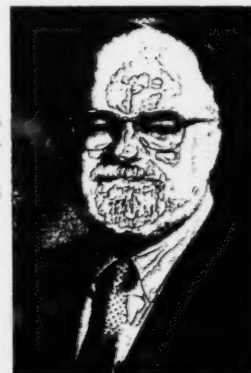
Montgomery County, Maryland-based agency has developed and run intergenerational programs since 1986. Austin Heyman's terrific work as founder and director left an agency that Barbara Newland, who has held the role of executive director for the past year, has been able to grow. The volunteers are engaged in a variety of programs proving that being needed is a reason to get up every day.

Programs like those Interages provides are essential for healthy communities by fulfilling the need to be needed. Further along the continuum though are full-time caregivers who often put their own lives on hold while they provide for family members in need. The Rosalynn Carter Institute/Johnson & Johnson Caregiver Program has worked to bring light to issues confronting caregivers. Recently they convened a panel to begin exploring the area of intergenerational caregiving. I was honored to be asked, along with many super colleagues, to serve on the panel and help write a forthcoming book on the subject. Generations United, our program database and website were all mentioned frequently. It's great to hear how useful our materials and tools are and how valuable our role is in increasing awareness and understanding.

It's fitting that this issue of our newsletter, which focuses on innovation, will be followed by our fundraising edition. As one of my favorite poets, Ric Masten wrote, anyone can build a castle in the sky, but if you know the art of oiling hinges, teach me. These innovators know the secret of building a castle on a firm foundation. It's a tribute to them and the people they have dedicated their tremendous talents to helping.

FROM THE CHAIR: JOHN ROTHER

Again this year the Generations United Public Policy Agenda was distributed to members of Congress with a cover letter from co-chairs of the Older Americans and Children's Caucuses. This demonstration of bipartisan support for intergenerational public policies helps lay the groundwork for GU's education efforts during the 108th Congress.



The development of the agenda inspired an active board discussion about the unique role that Generations United should play in educating Congress and the public about the intergenerational significance of the Medicaid program. This discussion is just one example of how the board has effectively broadened our role from basic oversight and guidance to engaging in dynamic dialogue about GU's potential cutting edge role in public policy issues, intergenerational mentoring programs, relative caregiving and other important topics. In response to the discussion, GU has already formed a Medicaid advisory group of GU members who will continue to conduct strategic education efforts with Congress and the public.

Generations United continues to be a catalyst for collaborations across ages. As a result of relationships forged through GU, AARP and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA) have launched a major mentoring initiative that will partner AARP members with youth. Historically BBBSA had not specifically sought out older mentors, but preliminary reports from the pilot of this initiative indicate that these mentoring matches are some of the best in the history of BBBSA.

While many nonprofit organizations are not doing well in this economic environment, I am pleased that GU continues to thrive even in a climate of uncertainty and fiscal constraints thanks to the continuing outstanding work of Donna Butts and her staff.

Theme for this Issue: Faces of Innovation

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In this issue our lead story presents two very different interviews each speaking about disparate intergenerational programs. Yet, inspiration and commitment are at the core of both programs. Extraordinary people give voice to these efforts, the kind of people we believe you will want to meet. For so many intergenerational programs, it is the vision, dedication and hard work of one person that is the catalyst for the success of the program. In this issue, we share with you the faces of these innovators as we highlight the results of their tireless work.

THEME FOR THIS ISSUE

Faces of Innovation



(denotes articles that relate to theme)

GENERATIONS UNITED TOGETHER

Together celebrates the richness of generations by providing useful information about intergenerational programs and policies through articles that address the mutual well-being of children, youth, adults, and older adults.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

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Laura Landry-Meyer, Bowling Green State University, School of Family and Consumer Sciences, OH

Bard Lindeman, Syndicated Columnist "In Your Prime," Tribune Media Services, GA

Wini McDuffie, Intergenerational Consultant, Senior Neighbors of Chattanooga, TN

Rolanda Pyle, Grandparent Resource Center, NYC Department for the Aging, NY

Bob Rosenblatt, Los Angeles Times, Washington D.C. Correspondent, Washington, D.C.

Generations United members represent many viewpoints. Inclusion of articles, research, conferences, or resources does not imply GU's endorsement. We encourage our members to submit articles, artwork, photographs, and information on upcoming events, recent publications, or honors. All materials are considered carefully for publication.

Together is published quarterly for members of *Generations United*.

Please e-mail jpeterson@gu.org or submit a disc compatible with Microsoft Word to Editor, *Generations United*, 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001 or call 202/638-1263.

Joia Peterson, Editor

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News from the STATES

MASSACHUSETTS

MIN's 2003 ANNUAL MEETING... A SUCCESS

By Mary O'Donnell - MIN/
Generations Incorporated
Partnership Liaison

The Massachusetts Intergenerational Network's (MIN) 2003 Annual Meeting in April was a great success- complete with an interactive panel discussion on current visions of multi-generational programming, highlights on three very noteworthy intergenerational programs and meaningful networking conversations. MIN is a statewide coalition of people who believe that interaction and cooperation among generations contributes vitally to the good of individuals, families and communities.

In partnership with Generations Incorporated, MIN strives to unite the generations to strengthen individuals and communities.

This year's Annual Meeting featured a panel discussion entitled "Intergenerational Vision through the eyes of: the policy maker, the educator, the community organizer and you!" Panelists included: Joyce Williams (Commissioner, Boston

Commission on Affairs of the Elderly), Dr. Maureen Power (Director, Worcester State Intergenerational Urban Institute), David Crowley (President, Social Capital Inc.), and Lindsay Nyberg (AmeriCorps Lead, Generations Incorporated). The panel was co-facilitated by Robert Gallant (Executive Director, Highland Valley Elder Services, Inc.) and Tom Willis (presenter/performer, Metamorphosis). Each of these individuals shared their unique

perspectives and generated a lively and thought provoking discussion on the challenges and future of

intergenerational programming.

Also featured during the event was the presentation of the Fran Pratt Award, which is presented to an individual or group who exemplifies notable "vision, leadership and service" to the intergenerational movement. This award was established in 1992 to

acknowledge and honor Fran Pratt, nationally known for his intergenerational efforts and one of MIN's founders.

This year's recipient of the Award was Phyl Solomon, Founder, Habitat Intergenerational Program (HIP), MA Audubon Habitat Education Center and Wildlife Sanctuary. Many of HIP's participants of all ages were able to attend, and added a valuable "intergenerational" dynamic to the evening. Also recognized were two other notable programs that received a certificate of recognition: the North Andover Council on Aging, Jean Guyer, Coordinator of an Intergenerational Collaborative between the Sr. Center and the Youth Center; and the Rockport Council on Aging, Diane Bertolino in collaboration with the Rockport High School Film Class Veterans Project.

For more information, or to become a MIN member, please

contact Mary O'Donnell at 617-423-0401 or modonnell@generationsinc.org

MICHIGAN

LIFESPAN RESPITE CENTER
OPENS IN JACKSON, MICHIGAN
By Doug Cunningham
Community Respite Center,
Inc.

The Community of Jackson, Michigan has pulled together to build a private not-for-profit lifespan respite center in collaboration with a brand new county-run medical care facility. This 97,000 square foot building is home to 195 elderly residents requiring medical care services and is now co-located with a new children's respite and day care program. The Medical Care Facility offers traditional services however, it incorporates an intergenerational component of activities, special events and resources.

The new facility opened in January of 2003

Generations
INCORPORATED



MIN in Partnership with
Generations Incorporated

and an adult day and respite care center for adults and seniors opens in August, making the center a place for anyone ages 2 weeks of age throughout the end of life. Some of the programs include, summer day camp for children, Headstart, 24-hour day care, drop-in respite, and overnight respite up to 14 days at a time. Adult service include Adult Day Care, overnight Respite Care, support groups for families and referrals for all to appropriate community resources.

The current program is able to serve 29 children every shift, 24 hours a day, seven (7) days a week. Debbie Vermeulen, who utilizes the program for day care, sends both her child with Autism and her child with regular needs. She states that this program is "...a blessing that was truly needed within our community. Traditional day care and in-home day care providers were NOT responsive to the needs of working parents with special needs children. They would not accept these children because their staff was not trained, to assist them. This day care program and respite service has allowed our family to continue our daily lives with the peace of mind that trained, caring individuals are providing the needed special attention and support services. Inclusion is an important part of child development, and including special needs

children in projects with the elderly residents benefits everyone."

*For more information about these programs, please contact Doug Cunningham
Community Respite Center,
Inc. (517) 788-7533 or email
doug49203@yahoo.com*

VIRGINIA

ANNANDALE STUDENTS
ENERGIZE DAY HEALTH
CENTER

by Glenna C. Orr

Imagine a place where seniors can spend the day receiving a delicious breakfast and lunch, playing the Horseshoes, reading Poetry, receiving Hair and Nail Care, and a variety of other activities. Since September 2002, college students of Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale Campus, have volunteered their time, dedication, and care to the senior members and staff of Annandale Day Health Care Center to create such a place.

Every week, the college students visit the center and join in on the planned daily activities, or bring a unique activity of their own to the seniors. According to Isabel Castillejo, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and Volunteer Coordinator of Annandale Day Health Care Center, an emphasis has been placed on forming a connection between the seniors and students rather than the success of completing a



Student of Northern Virginia Community College volunteers with resident of the Annandale Health Day Health Care Center

project. The staff members of Annandale Day Health Care Center assign the students to seniors based on their similar interests. During each visit, the seniors and students enjoy each other's company, and work as a team on an arts and crafts activity or a game. Some of the senior members are able to speak their native languages with some of the students. There are seniors and students who speak both Spanish and Korean,

and the seniors are most delighted to communicate with a college student in their own special native language. As one senior member of Annandale Day Health Care Center expressed, "There is so much enjoyment in just seeing young faces with lots of energy."

*For more information contact
Glenna Orr at 703-549-
6379.*

SAVE THE DATE!

GLOBAL CHALLENGES - FUTURE DIRECTIONS: INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMES, RESEARCH AND POLICY

The International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) will hold its second biennial conference on June 3-5, 2004 at the University of Victoria, in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For more information, please check the conference website:

<http://web.uvic.ca/cyc/icip/>

KINNET SUPPORT GROUPS: ENHANCING FAMILY LIFE THROUGH INFORMATION AND RESOURCE SHARING

By Caroline E. Crocoll
Program Director

Someone once said that knowledge is power, and in any aspect of life, decision-making is enhanced when people have accurate, timely information to inform their choices. With sound information, people have the power to control aspects of their lives that might otherwise be unmanageable. For grandparents and other relatives raising children, information is critical to their ability to stabilize family life and promote a healthier, more balanced environment for children.

Information and resources provided through KinNET support group participation assists caregivers with a wide variety of challenges they face as they work to provide a safe and happy home life for their families. An outstanding example of information and resource sharing can be found at a KinNET-funded site in Salt Lake City—the Children's Service Society of Utah (CSS). The KinNET Project at CSS is called Grandfamilies and provides advocacy, family fun and an informational support group for caregivers and children. Grandfamilies assists people by providing resources on legal issues, family dynamics, financial issues, and dealing with children's emotional issues. They provide assistance with school issues, and substance abuse and help people access community resources.

Through participation in the project, caregivers meet others in the same situation, and are introduced to community agencies that have made a commitment to help caregivers and children. For example, one caregiver at the Utah site felt empowered by her participation in the group and stated, "I like getting to know the others in the group and hear about their concerns and how to handle problems. The group facilitator gives us a lot of information and we get to hear speakers that I would not have heard without going to the group."

Another caregiver, Bernice, is parenting her granddaughter because her own daughter is too sick to do so. Bernice is a single grandmother on a fixed income and her home is small, but she welcomed her granddaughter with open arms. She mentioned during a recent support

group meeting that she had no medical insurance for the little girl and was fearful that something would happen to her. Other group members told her about Medicaid benefits and a guest speaker was brought in to share information on how grandparents could secure Medicaid for the grandchildren they were raising. During this meeting, information was also provided on how grandparents could obtain child-only grants that were tied to the child's income,

not their own. Bernice made an appointment with Social Services the next day and obtained both financial support and medical assistance for her granddaughter.

Successes like those occurring at the Utah site serve to underscore the importance of Children's Bureau-funded projects like KinNET. Grandparents and other relatives raising children are hungry for up-to-date information to help them make appropriate decisions for their families. Informational supports, such as 24-hour hotlines are often requested by caregivers seeking resources to help them enhance their

ability to provide for the children in their care, but unfortunately, this type of resource is a rarity. Through KinNET, caregivers are discovering a link to the greater community and to the information they need to properly care for their families. For information and resources to assist grandparent and other relative caregivers and children in your community, contact:

Generations United
122 C Street, NW, Suite 820
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 638-1263
www.gu.org

Casey National Center for Resource Family Support
1808 Eye St. NW 5th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
202/467-4441
Toll-free: 888/295-6727
www.caseyorg/cnc

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Photo by Phil McCleary



GENERATIONS UNITED PROGRAM UPDATE

AVOIDING COMMON PITFALLS IN INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAMMING

By Caroline E. Crocoll
Program Director

Successful intergenerational programs live and grow through meticulous and methodical planning. It is possible to develop high caliber programs where young and old work together to serve their communities by creating new programs, or by incorporating intergenerational components or projects into existing programs.

Strong programs result from concerted efforts to avoid common design pitfalls by incorporating basic guiding principles into intergenerational programs. In particular, principles related to issues such as reciprocity, meeting real community needs, appropriate partnering, program planning, involving stakeholders, and participant reflection, can become problematic if not addressed in the initial design and implementation. Follow the six guiding principles outlined below to assist you in building strong programs, developing support for intergenerational initiatives in your community, and educating people on the benefits of intergenerational connections.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

Reciprocity Is Essential

Programs should reflect a balanced relationship among young and old participants - each gives; each receives. This exchange is planned, clearly stated, and incorporated in the goals and activities of the program. The exchange is mutual and explicit.

Activities Meet Real Community Needs

United in common purpose, young and old work side by side to get things done. The mission is to serve the community. People work together to determine projects that address the needs of the community and are valued by the community. Often the long-term intention is to foster systemic change.

Partnerships Created By The Program Building Community

Program developers bring young and old together to serve their community, collaborate with a variety of community groups on program design, build on existing relationships and resources, communicate with one another, and have a shared vision of how the community will benefit.

Careful Planning And Preparation Are Vital

Experienced operators of intergenerational community service programs know that good programs do not just happen by bringing young and old together. Careful planning and organization are always necessary. Preparation and ongoing support of both young and older people are vital investments that pay off in high quality program results.

Involve Young And Old As Decision Makers

Programs are stronger when younger and older participants are involved in all stages of program development. Young and old work together to make decisions regarding such issues as activities, training, recognition, and program expansion. Stakeholder involvement in decision-making will help to foster buy-in and commitment to the program.

Reflection Is Planned

Reflection must be a planned program activity, a structured period where young and old participants examine the meaning of their service experience from the viewpoint of benefits delivered to the community, personal interpretations such as growth or change within themselves,

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Do you work with an innovative
intergenerational program?
If the answer is YES, then we are
looking for you.

GU compiles profiles on model
programs from around the country to
include in our free online database.

To add your program, contact
Andre Baldwin at 202-638-1263 or
visit our online database at
www.gu.org/prog.

SENIORITY: SAN PASQUAL NEIGHBORS

By Denise G. Nelesen, LCSW

Senior Columnist, San Diego Union Tribune

When North County resident Vivian, 78, walks down to pick up her mail, she crosses in front of the San Pasqual Academy and some of the teens living at the school will holler at her. They say "Hi, Grandma," Vivian says. "The kids see me every day and they started calling me 'grandma.' One of the girls will say, 'Hi, Grandma,' and another one will say, 'I knew her first.'"

Soon the students/residents of the academy won't have to fight over Vivian. They will have other "grandparents" to hug. A new program, the San Pasqual Academy Intergenerational Neighbors, is creating a type of "extended family" for the foster teens who live at the site, located just off Highway 78, east of the Wild Animal Park.

The San Pasqual Academy currently houses 100 foster youth, ages 14 to 18, and will eventually be able to accommodate 250 residents. The teens live on campus in separate dorm-like housing, with boys and girls segregated. Each wing of housing has "house parents" who supervise and assist the teens with daily living skills. During the day, the teens attend school and participate in a variety of activities, including sports. Sprinkled in the academy's 238-acre property, which is owned by the County of San Diego, are 28 homes. A handful of those homes are empty.

The Neighbors project hopes to give the vacant homes new life. The goal is to rent the houses at a reduced rate to older adults (age 55 and older) who agree to open their doors and hearts as mentors to the teens. The senior applicants will be screened and asked to make at least a year's commitment to the program, providing a minimum of 10 hours a week of interaction with their younger neighbors. These mentors will also meet weekly with one another as support and for ideas.

Vivian and her husband have lived on the property for 18 years, when it was a boarding school linked with the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Vivian is considering becoming an official "Neighbor" in the new program, even though she's been a surrogate grandparent for a while.

"I sew quite a bit and I could help them sew a straight line. I don't think they have a sewing machine, but maybe someone can donate a couple. They need somebody, the

kids. Everybody needs somebody," says Vivian, whose seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren all live away. The couple rarely gets to see them.

Many of the teens at the academy have little or no family connection.

"Some of my friends don't go on pass ever," says Nica, 16. "Having (older adults around) will make a big difference for them, especially. There will be new friends for those who just stay here."

Nica regularly gets to see her real 52-year-old grandmother, whom she calls "Nana."

"I don't know what I would do without her," she says. "And if there are more like my Nana out there, that would be so cool. A lot of people here don't talk about grandparents much."

Nica says she would turn to these new older neighbors to learn more about cooking, and about gardening and landscaping. "And I would like to hear about the highlights of their lives, what they had to go through to get where they got."

Nica is one of a group of teens helping to develop the Neighbors program, which is being modeled after an intergenerational project near Chicago. The Illinois program, Hope Meadows, turned a former military base into a foster care village, offering free housing to adults who foster children and low-rent housing to older adults who become neighbors, mentors and a support network for the new families.

As with the San Pasqual Academy, Hope Meadows draws children who are most at risk of "falling through the cracks." These are mostly older children who are not likely to be adopted or to return to live with their birth families or other relatives.

Pam Smith, director of the County's Aging & Independence Services, learned about Hope Meadows and envisioned how the intergenerational approach could work for San Pasqual. With the encouragement of the Board of Supervisors, Smith and other county staff worked with New Alternatives, the nonprofit group that provides the residential care to the youth. New Alternatives hired an intergenerational coordinator, Sally Laviolette, to manage the project.

Recently, Brenda Eheart, the creator and director of Hope Meadows, came to San Pasqual and talked with the Neighbors planning group, giving them pointers she has

The Neighbors project hopes to give the vacant homes new life. The goal is to rent the houses at a reduced rate to older adults (age 55 and older) who agree to open their doors and hearts as mentors to the teens.

IN MEMORIAM: MIRIAM CHARNOW, DIRECTOR OF FAMILY FRIENDS

Miriam Charnow, director of the National Council on the Aging's Family Friends Program, passed away on April 12, 2003. Over the past 15 years, she was the main force behind Family Friends, a senior volunteer program that provides "grandparently" support to families with children who have disabilities or chronic illness. The program also helps homeless children, children who need to be immunized, and families seeking to foster the cultural heritage of children they have adopted from abroad. Ms. Charnow played a key role in the start-up and implementation of 36 Family Friends projects across the country from design through funding, including the development and distribution of all publications and informational materials.



Among her numerous recognitions, in 1999, Generations United honored Miriam with our Leadership Award. Miriam Charnow's dedication to this field and to her friends, colleagues, and the thousands she touched with her caring, her wit, and her wisdom will be missed.

Excerpts of this memorial were borrowed from NCOA week.

SAN PASQUEL

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learned during the eight years of Hope Meadows' growth. She urged the group not to try to plan everything now, but to get the homes rented and let the older adults that move in be an integral part of creating the program. So the push is on to find the right renters for those empty homes.

Char Malone, senior advocate for the City of Escondido, is excited by the Neighbors concept and has been talking it up at the Joslyn Senior Center and elsewhere. "This program can help transport seniors out of themselves and help them keep a young spirit," she says.

For more information about the San Pasqual Academy Intergenerational Neighbors program, or to apply, contact Sally Laviolette at (760) 432-8393, or email her at sanpasqualacademyneighbors@yahoo.com.

KinNET

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Children's Defense Fund
25 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
202-628-8787
www.childrensdefense.org

Child Welfare League of America
440 First Street, N.W., Third Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 638-2952
www.cwla.org

Administration on Aging
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren
Administration on Aging
Washington, DC 20201
(202) 619-0724
<http://www.aoa.gov/NAIC/Notes/grandparents-grandchildren.html>

American Bar Association
Center on Children and the Law
OR
Commission on Legal Problems of the Elderly
740 15th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 662-1000
www.abanet.org

Cooperative Extension Service
CYFERnet
Children, Youth and Families Education and Research
Network
(612) 626-1111
<http://www.nnfr.org/igen/GRG.htm>

AdoptUSKids
Administration for Children and Families
Children's Bureau
(888) 200-4005
<http://www.adoptuskids.org>

The KinNET Project, funded through the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the only national initiative seeking to establish a network of support groups for relatives caring for kin in foster care. For more information on the KinNET Project, visit GU's website at www.gu.org or call 202-638-1263.



INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

By Jaia Peterson
Public Policy Director

MEDICAID

Medicaid serves the health care needs of 40 million people, including low-income seniors, disabled adults, and more than 20 million children. For nearly 40 years, the most vulnerable people in our country have relied on Medicaid to help cover the health care services that they cannot afford themselves and that no other plans provide. This year proposals by the administration call to overhaul this program in a way that would pit children and older people against each other and place them at risk of losing their health care coverage. The proposal would give a limited pot of money to the states to provide for the health care

coverage of its residents. Unlike the current entitlement program which guarantees funding for every qualifying resident, the proposals to block grant the Medicaid program would limit the funding so that states could be forced to choose between funding long-term care for older people and doctor visits for children.

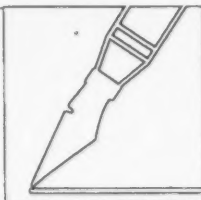
Generations United and our members are working to educate Congress on the intergenerational importance of protecting Medicaid. After extensive education efforts, a task force of the National Governors Association was unable to agree on a proposal to overhaul Medicaid, which many feared would include block granting the program. Although the governors did

Unlike the current entitlement program which guarantees funding for every qualifying resident, the proposals to block grant the Medicaid program would limit the funding so that states could be forced to choose between funding long-term care for older people and doctor visits for children.

not develop a plan, other proposals that would threaten the integrity of the program are likely to surface this fall. A task force made up of five Republicans has been created in the House to look for ways to modernize the Medicaid program and improve the health of low-income Americans who rely on the program for wellness. These members need to be educated on the importance of Medicaid for children, youth and seniors. Special attention should be given to explaining how capping or blockgranting the program could force states to choose between providing care for children or for seniors.

national service programs including Senior Corps, AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve, all of which provide unique, effective intergenerational service opportunities. The program is long overdue for reauthorization. Through the reauthorization process the guidelines for the program can be modified to broaden the pool of volunteers and better serve communities. Although there is strong bi-partisan support for the program, the House leadership is not likely to make CNCS reauthorization legislation a priority unless they hear from their constituents and the White House that the program is important and provides essential services to communities. You can help educate your members of Congress about the value of this program by calling or writing your representative, senator and the White House and explaining why these

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE ALERTS



If you would like to receive timely legislative updates and alerts about what you can do to help pass intergenerational legislation, please contact Jaia Peterson by emailing jpeterson@gu.org or calling 202-638-1263.

THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the umbrella organization for

Through extensive education efforts of GU members and other interested organizations, both the House and Senate passed legislation resolving the accounting issue in a way that is favorable to maintaining more AmeriCorps members.

intergenerational programs make a difference in your community.

This year funding for AmeriCorps, one of the programs of CNCS, was drastically threatened due reductions in appropriations and a disagreement between the Office of Management and Budget and the Government Accounting Office on the accounting formula that determines enrollment for the program. As a result AmeriCorps programs across the U.S. were at risk of facing as much as 80% reductions in volunteers. Through extensive education efforts of GU members and other interested organizations, both the House and Senate passed legislation resolving the accounting issue in a way that is favorable to maintaining more AmeriCorps members. At the time of printing, a supplemental appropriation is pending to provide sufficient funding to at least maintain the same number of AmeriCorps volunteers as during last year.

LEGACY- HOUSING FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

LEGACY- Living Equitably: Grandparents Aiding Children and Youth, a bill designed to provide safe and affordable housing to grandparents and other relatives raising children, was reintroduced in the House (HR 2628) on June 26th, 2003 by Representatives Michael Capuano (D-MA), Jack Quinn (R-NY), Neil Abercrombie (D-OH), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Maurice Hinchey (D-NY), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Janita Millender-McDonald (D-CA), Silvestre Reyes (D-TX), Tom Lantos (D-KY), Ron Lewis (R-KY), Major R. Owens (D-NY), Charles Rangel (D-NY), and Janice Schakowsky (D-IL). The Senate bill (S.381) was reintroduced in February by Senators Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Mike Dewine (R-OH), Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Susan Collins (R-ME), and John Breaux (D-LA). With many issues competing for attention this year, members of Congress need to hear from you about the housing needs of grandparents raising

children, in order to make legislation that helps them a priority. If you support housing for relative caregivers, contact your member of Congress and tell them about the LEGACY bill, H.R. 2628 in the House and S. 381 in the Senate. GU is seeking individual and organizational endorsements of the bill to help show members of Congress the broad support

for grandparent- and other relative-headed families. For a full description of the bill or to give your formal endorsement, contact Jaia Peterson at jpeterson@gu.org or 202-638-1263.

For up-to-date information on this and other legislation relevant to intergenerational programs, visit the legislative alert section of the GU web site at www.gu.org.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Addressing correspondence to a Senator:

The Honorable (full name)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator (last name):

Addressing correspondence to a Representative:

The Honorable (full name)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative (last name):

The congressional switchboard can give you the direct phone number of your senator or representative. That number is 202-224-3121. There are a number of web sites that allow you to either send a message or to find contact information. One such site is www.congress.org.

INNOVATIONS ACROSS THE AGES

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Q. How long does this mentoring go on? And what do the partners do together?

A. We ask our mentors to give one year to the program. It's relevant, I think, that a majority of mentor & youth partnerships last two years. In fact, some three-fourths stay with us five years. We hear from our mentors that they are "giving back" to the community.

As for what they do together, almost anything goes: A trip to the zoo, a baseball game, going to church, the mall (window shopping, mostly), or a museum. But understand, please, the classroom is the so-called 'home' setting. They initially meet and are trained, together, as part of the school day.

Q. Very clever. You involve the schools, along with the families.

A. And the community, as well. One part of our program involves community service. In our case, we may visit a nursing home where the mentees could, for example, conduct an oral history project. We want meaningful moments, and lots of give-and-take, between children, their mentors and the older residents. We teach that in a caring community, caregiving is everyone's business.

Q. Can Across Ages be considered a 'quick fix' or 'can't miss' solution for at-risk children?

A. Not only no, but emphatically no. Two points here: first, real human change is not a fast process, despite what television asks us to believe. Second, it generally takes at least six months to develop the necessary mutual trust and respect for any lasting growth on the part of our youth.

Q. Why are programs such as Across Ages important to society? You can't reach very many kids?

A. Let's talk frankly about youth—our kids—and their place in today's society. Some say we've always had troubled kids; nothing new here. I'll address that.

Fact: There are almost 30 million young people between ages 10-17. Fact: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tells us one-third of all youth smoke cigarettes. Think here of lung cancer, the leading cancer killer of women. Fact: more than half drink frequently, meaning at least five times a week; and, it's a fact more than half of all high school students report they've had sexual intercourse. Many without any protection.

Fact: For teenagers 14 to 17, the homicide rate is almost two

and a half times higher now than it was a decade ago—especially among African-American males.

As researcher Joy G. Dryfoos and I wrote for a journal article, we're seeing a new class of vulnerable youth: these kids are functionally illiterate, disconnected from school, prone to drug abuse and early criminal activity. Many are depressed, without hope.



Across Ages mentor speaks with teenage program participants

Further, they are at risk of becoming parents of unwanted babies. With this serving as their 'childhood', how can they possibly become responsible adults without significant help? "Leave no child behind," is a wonderful slogan. Across Ages is a proven program. It has served more than 2,500 children in 10 years—and almost every one of these, ultimately, became a successful student, even as he or she contributed to the community through service, courtesy and, yes, kindness.

Can you properly measure this societal contribution? Not with numbers, figures, or statistics, in my view.

I tell anyone who will listen that Across Ages children live inside violent communities. Because unemployment is so high many of the youth don't know anyone who is working. Therefore, they never see an adult bring home a paycheck.

Yet, my sense is that because Across Ages came into their lives, more than 2,500 such children will find their path out of this environment, many going on to college, some becoming teachers, job holders and solid, law-abiding citizens.

I submit this qualifies as an achievement. Perhaps even a pattern.

Q. If I wanted to start my own local Across Ages program, what kind of a budget would I need?

A. Your total budget could range from \$50,000 to \$200,000, depending upon the size of your program. A key factor might be whether you decide to give stipends to your mentor volunteers. In general, however, the cost per child for each school year is \$1500-\$2000.

Q. Where and how do you successfully recruit mentors?

A. There is no one place, nor is there a single formula, or approach, that works every time. My best advice: cast a wide net. Knock on every door. You might begin with the churches, plus the community volunteer center. Make a friend there, leaving behind a job description and brief overview of your program.

Q. Let's wrap up with one human interest story, a short narrative about a kid who matured, and profited, because of his (or her) mentor.

A. I want to talk here about male mentors. Today's kids grow up having too little contact with fathers. It's said they receive less guidance, and influence, from fathers than perhaps any generation in American history. This obviously represents a great loss, in part because older men have special insight into the challenges of becoming an adult male. Across Ages has been blessed to recruit a number of superb male mentors. One of whom I call 'Mr. N, as in nice.'

Mr. N escorted three mentees, sixth graders, to a restaurant. All four carried Across Ages vouchers good for a modest dinner. One boy wasn't hungry; he cashed in the voucher. The others ate well and also left the restaurant carrying doggie bags.

After walking a few blocks, the group saw a homeless man. The mentor instinctively handed over his doggie bag. The



Laura Lockwood, founder of ManaTEEN, and a senior citizen during a Home Safety for Seniors event

two mentees also held out their doggie bags. The third youth next presented his money. The homeless man took the food and cash, with thanks.

In telling his story, Mr. N says: "Man, the tears just rolled."

I love this story, which sounds like a Biblical parable. I cherish it because in a very few words it speaks of how the heart and soul of Across Ages is that special bond, which develops between children and older volunteers.

Lastly, as a child I was exposed to Quaker teachings. Therefore, I knew about: equality for all

people, simplicity and service to others. Inscribed over the door of my high school were four words from Quaker leader George Fox: "Let your lives speak."

All those who become the Across Ages program, and carry forward the good works we seek to do every day; they speak eloquently through their lives.

For more information on Across Ages call 215-204-6970 or visit www.temple.edu/cil/

LAURA

Mark well the name of Laura Lockwood. Remember, too, you read it here first.

At age 12, Laura Lockwood achieved self-discovery: she understood "I wasn't much of a student." (She told one interviewer she struggled because of an attention deficit disorder.)

"Nor was I an athlete," she continues. However, "I could volunteer," and in hometown Bradenton, Florida, headquarters for a small corps of senior adults escaping cold winters, there never will be too many helping hands.

At the local volunteer center, however, Laura was rebuffed, told she was too young. Profiled by America's Promise, Laura remembers: "I was determined to show adults youth are responsible, committed and compassionate... Friends and I completed a neighborhood mapping project to determine what needs we might be able to address.

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NATIONAL SURVEY REVEALS EXTENSIVE NEED FOR TRAINING ON RELATIVE CAREGIVING

By Kaja Snell

Manager, National Center on Grandparents and Others Raising Children

By building awareness about the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) is critical for many Americans, particularly for grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children. The NFCSP, which is funded and distributed throughout the states as part of the Older Americans Act, provides services to caregivers 60 years and over in almost every community across the country. NFCSP services include: information and referral; individual counseling, support groups and training; respite care and supplemental services like home modifications or legal services. Up to 10% of the funds can be used to meet the needs of grandparents and other relatives raising children.

In 2002 the Administration on Aging awarded the Generations United (GU) National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children one of eleven national innovative grants to support the implementation of the NFCSP across America. GU's first critical step was to survey service providers across the aging network to better understand what providers knew about the NFCSP's inclusion of grandparent caregivers and the resources available to caregivers in their community. Surveys were distributed to local Agencies on Aging (AAA), Native American Tribes, and primary health care centers. A modified version of the survey was also distributed to State Units on Aging (SUA)

Survey results were used to determine the greatest training and technical assistance needs of the aging network in the area of grandparents and other relatives raising children. At the local level, the results of the survey indicated the need to foster greater awareness of the issues facing grandparent and other relative caregivers in general, and the means available to serve them through the NFCSP. Fifty-five percent (55%) of the agencies responding reported providing some services to grandparents or other relatives raising children. The top two services provided were information to caregivers and assistance to caregivers. Seventy-eight (78%) of the agencies responding believed that they would benefit from expert training regarding issues and services for grandparents and other relatives raising children.

Seventy-eight (78%) of the agencies responding believed that they would benefit from expert training regarding issues and services for grandparents and other relatives raising children.

The top training area that agencies felt they would benefit from was mental health issues in kinship care (54%).

Survey results from State Units on Aging (SUA) echoed the local level respondents. While 73% of SUAs indicated that it is not a requirement in their state to use up to 10% of NFCSP funds for grandparents and other relatives raising children, 92% indicated that SUA providers would benefit from expert training, or knew of an agency that would.

SUAs most often requested training on legal issues for caregivers, model respite programs, and training caregivers in general.

Survey results indicate that the aging network has clearly expressed a need for information, education and training on issues and programs for grandparents raising children. Survey participants offered anecdotal responses on the challenges and barriers providers face in serving relative caregivers and reported difficulty in serving grandparents under the age of 60. One respondent wrote: "Funding for grandparents under 60 is limited. Therefore, there are not many programs able to serve the younger grandparent

population due to restrictions on using NFCSP funds to only relatives 60 and over (resulting) in low utilization".

Generations United is using the survey results to more effectively tailor training and technical assistance provided to the aging network by GU's Center and GU's National Network of Expert Trainers, a cadre of experts in the field of kinship caregiving available to educate audiences around the country. Based on the results of the survey, GU will make every effort to deploy these trainers to Federal Regions that are in need of training and assistance on the grandparent issue. GU continues to create tools and provide technical assistance to service providers. Publications currently being developed in response to the survey findings include a Provider Training Manual and a Fact Sheet entitled, *Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Serving the Under 60 Population*.

GU's Center works to increase the awareness of the special needs of grandparents, enabling providers to assist the greatest number of families possible. By increasing awareness throughout the aging network, and particularly from the local level, the benefits of the NFCSP can be utilized more effectively for grandparents and other relatives who find themselves providing care for relative children.

For more information contact, Kaja Snell at 202-638-1263

VOLUNTEER, THEN ASK A FRIEND

Through our partnership with Senior Corps GU has placed our members' volunteer opportunities on www.seniorcorps.org. Now Senior Corps has created a new campaign to further expand the number of senior volunteers across the country. Senior Corps' "Ask a Friend" campaign asks persons age 55 and over to volunteer, then ask a friend to volunteer. The goal is to mobilize 100,000 older volunteers to make a difference in the lives of your neighbors and strengthen their communities.

They are also asking us, as their partner, to share this news with you and you to share it with others you think might be interested. Let's help Senior Corps reach their 100,000 person goal. Ask people you know to volunteer and ask others to do the same. Together, we can help those in need, strengthen our communities, and reach the Senior Corps goal.

The message of the Ask a Friend campaign is easy:

Step One: Volunteer! Many organizations need people like you and your friends. Find a cause that's right for you — mentor a child, help local law enforcement or deliver meals to the homebound. Call 1-800-424-8867 to get started or

visit www.volunteerfriends.org to search opportunities online.

Step Two: Ask a Friend! Share your volunteer spirit with your friends and neighbors. Refer them to www.seniorcorps.org, or just have them call 1-800-424-8867. Ask them to volunteer with you or to find a unique opportunity to use their own skills and interests. And, feel free to ask more than one friend, neighbor, or family member.

Ask a Friend. Share Your Volunteer Spirit.

Help us share our volunteer spirit with others in our community. Share the "ask a friend" message today.

PROGRAM UPDATE

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and the value of intergenerational relationships.

Intergenerational programs are an increasingly popular way of sharing resources by bringing young and old together in mutually beneficial exchange. Over the last thirty-five years, hundreds and possibly thousands of intergenerational programs have cropped up in communities throughout the United States. These programs have proven particularly effective because they meet numerous needs of young, old, families, and communities. By incorporating proven guiding principles into your program design and implementation, you can avoid pitfalls in intergenerational programming and maximize the benefits of intergenerational activities in your community for people of all ages.

For more information on GU's intergenerational program efforts, please visit www.gu.org or contact GU at (202) 638-1263 or gu@gu.org.

GENERATIONS UNITED MISSION

To improve the lives of children, youth, and older people through intergenerational collaboration, public policies, and programs.

VISION:

A society that values all generations.

CORE BELIEFS:

We believe the time has come for advocates for children, youth and older persons to work together to build and support a common agenda. Each generation has unique strengths to help meet the needs of one another. Efforts to create more decent societies rest on the interdependence of generations — past, living, and still to come. Further we believe:

- *Intergenerational collaboration will unite and improve our communities*
- *Every person, younger and older, is a resource and adds value*
- *Public policy should meet the needs of all generations*
- *Resources are more wisely used when they connect the generations rather than separate them*
- *Discrimination in any form limits a person's potential to contribute to the development of their community*
- *Grandparents and other relatives who step forward to raise children are providing an invaluable service to their families and our country.*

WOOD WORKING WONDERS: TEACHING AT-RISK STUDENTS THROUGH NON-TRADITIONAL METHODS

By Nancy Bangstad Fernandez,
FGP/RSVP Intergenerational Coordinator, Portage County RSVP
(Retired and Senior Volunteer Program)

Charles Fernandez, age 80, knew from his years of experience teaching "at-risk" students and working at a local juvenile detention center, that the best way to reach "at-risk" youth before they wind up in a detention facility is through hands-on experiences. With the help of RSVP staff, he began volunteering with "at-risk" students at the local Alternative High School. Because he believes in the importance of reaching these students using non-traditional methods, he developed the Project Based Mentoring Program that teaches students basic woodworking skills using power tools. Charles worked with the school principal, administrative personnel, legal counsel, and building and grounds supervisors and was able to convince the school district to build a workshop in the Alternative High School.

RSVP staff began recruiting other volunteers and provided ongoing coordination of the program. Soon, volunteers were recruiting friends to join them. Although the volunteers teach basic woodworking skills, the real goal of the program, is to develop in the students an interest in learning. The boys and girls are at the school because they have been unsuccessful at the traditional high school for a variety of reasons including drug and alcohol problems, teen pregnancy, truancy, abuse and neglect, poor self-esteem and attitude. Some have severe emotional and behavioral problems. By working with Charles and the other 14 RSVP volunteers in the workshop, they receive individualized attention from a caring role model.

The teachers report unqualified success of the

program and now include it as part of the curriculum. Reluctant and wary of the program at first, students now can't wait to get to the workshop. Recently, one emotionally disturbed boy who has very inappropriate behavior most of the time was very reticent to try any of the power tools. With the help of a volunteer's gentle, guiding hand on his, the boy was encouraged to give it a try and they used the skill saw successfully. He was so excited and proud of this accomplishment that he said he couldn't wait to go home and share the experience with his mother. He also asked the volunteer if it would be all right for him to think of him as his own grandfather. Another student who was estranged from his own father, became quite accomplished at woodworking and told a volunteer that he would now make an attempt to rekindle a relationship with his father because his father had a workshop in the garage.

In April 2003 Charles was recognized for his mentoring accomplishments at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. where he was chosen for the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging /MetLife Foundation's "Older Volunteers Enrich America" national award and received the "highest honor" award for the mentoring category. During his acceptance



Charles Hernandez, creator of the Project Based Mentoring Program, works with students on woodworking projects.



RSVP volunteer teaches student at a local alternative high school basic woodworking as a part of the Project Based Mentoring Program.

remarks, Charles proclaimed that he is only the tip of an iceberg of older volunteers who care and want to help youth. Older volunteers have the patience and wisdom to be wonderful role models and non-judgmental allies for the children.

Recently RSVP learned that because of state budget cuts, state funding might be reduced or eliminated. In response, the students at the Alternative High School wrote letters of support of this program to their legislators. It was the first time any of the students became involved in the political process. One student wrote "Many of us wish school was more like the Woods Program, in that it is a hands on learning strategy program, rather (than) the conventional practices that we are used to. The RSVP mentors teach us how to make projects that we never realized we were capable of doing. This makes us feel that we are worth something. They truly care about us and that makes us feel wanted."

Fernandez adds: "In their daily lives, they (the students) don't have the time or opportunity to form an adult family bond and we can give them that." Another volunteer agrees "It's also that feeling of trust and communication because they understand what we're saying and they trust us."

For more information, contact Nancy Fernandez at 715-346-1401 or email bangstan@co.portage.wi.us.

INNOVATION ACROSS THE AGES

continued from page 13

"Within weeks, I was visiting hardware stores to ask for supplies," she continues. "We intended to assist seniors by painting their homes."

The version of that first encounter I heard is even richer; it offers more passion. Little Laura, barely four feet tall as a 12-year-old, stands before the Volunteer Lady with a "Well, okay, I'm here!" attitude. She is told, "Come back when you're old enough to drive."

"I can't drive," concedes Miss Stubborn, "but I can ride." The schoolgirl explains how she can "jump from the car and deliver Meals-on-Wheels fast! That way we can serve meals quicker, and maybe we can reach more people."

Today, there are hundreds of teen jumpers ("We call them jumpers.") riding with the county Meals-on-Wheels drivers. In addition, there's a celebrated volunteer organization, the ManaTEENS Club (www.manateens.org) with some 12,000 members, ages 12-19.



Laura mentoring to a Junior ManaTEEN

"I'm the old lady," says Laura Lockwood, proud founder of the organization characterized by America's Promise as "the largest local youth-led volunteer initiative in the country." Two quick facts: 82 percent of the county's teenage population belongs to ManaTEENS; further, over 500 local organizations have been helped by the teen brigade.

When she wears her Founder's hat, Laura talks as a CEO: "I encourage youth to get involved by developing interesting, meaningful opportunities..." But, in chitchat, I discovered Laura-the-kid, and Laura, the lover-of-animals.

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USING ASSISTED TECHNOLOGY TO CONNECT THE EMAIL GENERATION WITH THE GREATEST GENERATION

By Jack York
It's Never 2 Late

What does a carefree 9-year-old boy in Denver have in common with a remarkable 109-year-old blind resident at a Denver nursing home? If you ask either one of them, a lot! Nathan York, born in 1994, has a best friend, Mamie Legg, who was born in 1894. They both think 100 years difference in age is no excuse not to stay in touch, and they are proud to say that technology has helped make it happen.

Much has been documented about the problems associated with a technological digital divide. The problems can be real in terms of many children lacking access to computer technology. The flip side to this, as Nathan and Mamie can attest to, is the remarkable opportunities for connectivity that can occur with creative uses of adaptive technology, motivated older adults, and help from family members or staff at communities where the older adults live.

Our company, "It's Never 2 Late", sets up adaptive technology programs in older adult communities. We are seeing more and more intergenerational activities take place in the communities that invest in technology. The most tangible intergenerational benefit of technology is the connection provided by email, where generations separated by thousands of miles can be connected by a simple mouse click. "There is a tremendous amount of fear associated with an older adult's first experience with technology", explains Troy Dunning, activity director at the Christian Living Campus in Denver where Mamie resides. "The program we have set up involves the family from day one. We've set it up so that the first time a resident logs onto the computer, we have 3 or 4 emails from family members waiting. That thought of 'Why am I doing this?' quickly moves into 'How do I do this?'"

There are other tangible

benefits to having technology available for older adults. Donna Gruis, activity director at a Good Samaritan community in Ft. Collins, Colorado, has found the computer to be a good reason for family members and volunteers to visit the nursing home. "We have kids come in to visit their grandparents all of the time, and having a state of the art computer system available for them to use with their loved ones is a great experience," she says. "Often times kids are not excited about coming to visit, but showing their grandparents unique web sites, helping them with email, showing off their technology prowess – those are things that can make the visit positive for both sides. The elders don't always understand what the kids are talking about – but they are glad they are there to visit!"

Many activities that independent adults take for granted can become excellent opportunities for intergenerational activities. Mary Grace Smigiel, administrator at the Christian Living Campus explains, "I realized how powerful the computer program was for the residents and their families just last year. One of our residents was with her granddaughter in the computer room late at night, and under the eerie greenish glow of the computer screen, they were shopping on line and picking out sweaters for the resident's daughter. The granddaughter told me afterward it



Nathan York (far right) and best friend Mamie Legg (109 years) stay in touch through adaptive computer technology. Also shown are Nathan's siblings, Perrin and JP.



Catherine Deanes, graduate of *It's Never 2 Late* with her E-pal.

was the first time her grandmother had been able to actually pick something out for her daughter in years, and the experience delighted them all."

So many fascinating memories of older adults lives are buried within the Internet, and kids are the perfect excavators. The websites of military groups for Veterans, the online newspaper from an older adults home town, museums that used to be visited as a child, radio stations that used to be listened to, finding school alumni, etc., etc. The opportunities are endless, and the excitement generated by the findings can lead to impromptu conversations between generations. Technology improvements are also leading to new activities. The ease of converting old photographs into a digital format, and building simple websites highlighting the lives of older adults are the kind of activities that also unite generations. The kids have fun building the content; the elders are amazed at seeing their life stories come alive on line.

It is true that technology can create barriers if not carefully cultivated. However, it can break down barriers when intergenerational creativity is allowed to flourish. As Mamie and Nathan can attest to, computers can bring together a century worth of experiences in a positive way.

It's Never 2 Late (www.IN2L.com) is a Colorado company 100% dedicated to connecting older adults and caregivers with technology. If you would like more information about intergenerational activities they have set up, call Jack York at 303-806-0797 or email jyork@IN2L.com

PROCEEDS FROM INTERGENERATIONAL BOOK DONATED TO GENERATIONS UNITED



Inspired by the mission and work of Generations United, author Karen Braun will be donating part of the proceeds from her book, *The Wisdom of Oma*, to support Generations United's efforts. Karen Braun never realized she would become an author of her grandmother's wisdom until she held her grandma's hands in her final moments. The result of Braun's reflections is an inspiring book entitled *The Wisdom of Oma*, which already sold out of its first print run and is experiencing an international launch.

The Wisdom of Oma shares twenty-three gifts of wisdom gathered through an inspiring intergenerational relationship. Braun demonstrates that the ability to rise to our fullest potential exists innately within each one of us. Sharing the truth that freedom exists in recognizing our own unique gifts, Braun challenges the reader to bask in the beauty of his or her own inner light. By donating part of the proceeds to Generations United, this book will help promote the continued growth of intergenerational relationships through both education and financial support.

You can purchase an autographed copy of *The Wisdom of Oma* online at www.innervoice.ca or by calling 1-800-287-8610. It is also available on www.amazon.com and at Barnes & Noble.

LEARNING THE PATIENCE OF PARENTING FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION: AN INTERVIEW WITH CAROL MOORE

A TWO-PART SERIES

By Kaja Snell

Manager, The National Center on Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children

PART ONE

Moving through the door at a patient graceful pace, Carol Moore greets me as she arrives for the evening's KinNET Support Group meeting with a smile. She is wrapped in a colorful fleece and carrying a book-bag in each hand. With her are her 10-year-old granddaughter and her great-granddaughter, similar in age. The children nod politely, mumbling, "hello," before running into the children's recreation room to play while caregivers meet and talk together across the hall.

Immediately, Carol strikes me as a strong dignified woman, approachable enough to learn from and yearning to share her story. In a small crowded office at the National Center for Children and Families, a KinNET Project Site in Washington DC, we pull chairs together around the filing cabinets and boxes of flyers and children's projects. Carol is quiet and patient as I eagerly thank her for talking with me. I am anxious to learn about Carol's family, and understand not only her role as a "family caregiver," but also why she is able to care for generations of children seemingly with such ease and grace.

As we begin, Carol reveals to me that she is a 62-year-old mother of seven, grandmother of 18 and great grandmother of nine (with one on the way.) As Carol explains her family tree, it is clear that the traditional lines from one generation to the next are only suggestions of traditional family roles and relationships. In fact the individuals in Carol's family function together in various roles, secure in the knowledge that family is there when needed. It seems that the idea that "family cares first" has been central to Carol's family for generations.

Her father, from Ashville, NC, married her mother, from Marbole, MD, and built the bedrock of the family in Washington DC, local to the region ever since. Carol says she has, "seven brothers and two sisters... living." Originally

there had been fourteen of them. However, even as a child Carol remembers, there were other children that came to live with the family – filling the home to capacity but never feeling unwelcome. Carol's parents even permanently adopted a neighbor child, and periodically housed others.

Carol became a mother when she was fifteen years old. She became a grandmother for the first time when she was thirty-one. Although Carol had seven children of her own, her conversation is littered with references to children and



Carol Moore with her grandchild and great-grandchild.

teens that for a time being – every so often – found themselves living with Carol and her children as was needed. Even with her seven, she says she almost adopted one other child, who ultimately wound up living with her for a year.

She is a woman with a deep sense of family, duty and love. Now, a great grandmother, she is beginning all over again. After generations of informal caregiving, Carol has legal custody of her ten-year-old great-granddaughter, and is helping with homework and doctor's appointments, ensuring that this child is given a fair shot, and that she knows her family of origin. It began late one night. Carol was visited by police and asked to take responsibility for her great-granddaughter who had unfortunately been left alone.

Lovingly, Carol stepped in. She realizes that it is essential to care for the family's children in need. Carol is filled with faith and hope that she is also helping the child's mother, Carol's adult granddaughter. Carol cared for her granddaughter too, when she had this baby ten years ago, and was only a baby herself. The young mother and child lived with Carol, and now the adult granddaughter struggles at being a parent. She is unable to provide the care her child needs right now, and Carol hopes that by helping to raise her great-granddaughter, her granddaughter will be able to one day make it through life's twists and turns that have made it hard for her to be a healthy and constant parent.

Regularly working, and often volunteering, over a lifetime Carol has served her family and community, which not only fills her time but her soul. Making sure others, family or community, are clothed and fed is a theme constant throughout Carol's work and volunteer history. Even now she shares her newest volunteer interest with "SOME," (So Others May Eat), where she will help deliver fresh foods to families.

Carol is able to offer her best to those she cares for, because she takes the time to seek respite for herself. As a lifetime caregiver she says with conviction, not apology, "I run in the street just like the young girls do." Carol loves to

canvas the flea markets, and goes out with her friends to restaurants and a movie from time to time. She knows that taking time to visit and share stories with her good friend Evelyn, who also has great-grands, is good for her.

One of her granddaughters remains in foster care today, and she counts this as her greatest personal regret. Against all odds, and against the system, Carol spoke of her fight for this other grandchild in foster care. In a recent courtroom experience she pleaded with the judge to understand that she wants any of her grandchildren that need a family to be with her. "This courtroom couldn't even hold my family!" she said. Her family, and her level of commitment to all of them, is physically and conceptually beyond what legal systems have decided she is capable of. Carol explains, "What I do for one, I can do for the other, even if I have to put in bunk-beds . . . I am most proud of the fact that I kept one grandchild out of foster care."

Carol Moore is a kinship caregiver in Washington, D.C., raising her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. In Part 2 of this two part series, Carol relates the benefits of her participation in the Generations United KinNET Project, which is establishing a national network of support groups for kinship caregivers across the United States.

On the Road

GU continues to promote the intergenerational message through presentations, workshops and speeches throughout the country. Information about upcoming events is listed below.

AUGUST

21-22
Philanthropy Across Generations, The Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University, IA, Donna Butts

SEPTEMBER

12
Central Illinois Agency on Aging's Annual Meeting
Peoria, IL
Donna Butts

22
Administration on Aging Conference
Orlando, Florida
National Family Caregiver Support Program
Donna Butts

23-25
Communities for All Ages Conferences, Phoenix, Prescott, and Tucson, AZ
Donna Butts, Nancy Henkin

OCTOBER

6
Minnesota Kinship Caregivers Association statewide conference
Saint Paul, MN
Opening Keynote
Donna Butts

15-18
Generations United's International Conference

24
Foster Grandparent Program Celebration Luncheon
Petersburg, FL
Donna Butts

NOVEMBER

5-8
National Association for the Education of Young Children Conference, "Intergenerational Shared Sites: how to enhance service for children, build community support, and connect generations," Jaia Peterson and Caroline Crocoll.

If you would like to schedule someone from Generations United to address your conference or event, call 202-638-1263 or email gu@gu.org.

GU WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER



MARK K. SHRIVER,
VICE PRESIDENT AND MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF U.S. PROGRAMS
FOR SAVE THE CHILDREN

Mark Shriver, the Vice President and Managing Director of U.S. Programs for Save the Children, has been an advocate for vulnerable children and families for more than sixteen years, including serving eight years as an elected official. His unique experiences include: creating and leading community organizations, working in the private sector, and serving as a state legislator.

Before joining Save The Children, Shriver served two four-year terms as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Among his many leadership roles as an elected official, Shriver served as Maryland's first-ever Chair of the Joint Committee on Children, Youth and Families and was a strong advocate for after-school programs.

Before being elected, Shriver created and was Executive

Director of the Choice Program which serves at-risk youth through intensive, community-based counseling and job training services. A public/private partnership, The Choice Program has been expanded to include The Choice Jobs Program and The Choice Middle School Program, and been replicated nationwide. Described by columnist George F. Will as a "low-budget, high-energy, labor intensive, cost-effective program," The Choice Program has been featured in The Washington Post, Time magazine and other national publications.

Shriver has written widely about effective public/private partnerships and youth programs. In 1998, the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce named Shriver as a winner of their most prestigious national award: one of the nation's Ten Outstanding Young Americans. In 2000, Shriver was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the President's Commission on Mental Retardation.

Mark graduated from The College of Holy Cross and received a Masters degree in Public Administration from Harvard University. Mark and his wife, Jeanne, are the proud parents of two children.

GU WELCOMES NEW STAFF

ANDRÉ J. BALDWIN

The latest addition to our staff, André Baldwin, serves as the Program Assistant for Generations United. His responsibilities include managing GU's online program database, assisting with the organization's website, responding to requests for program information, and maintaining GU's library. Additional responsibilities include assisting with GU conferences and training events.

André comes to GU after serving with the U.S. Census Advisory Committee Office where he assisted with the planning and development of Advisory Committee



meetings, and maintained the office's website. Prior to that, he worked as a legislative aide for a county commissioner in Michigan, where he assisted constituents in resolving issues and briefed stakeholders on the status of county projects.

André feels fortunate to have worked in positions where he has been able to assist the public by providing beneficial information and resolving issues, and is pleased that he will be able to do the same in his capacity at GU. André is particularly excited about GU's unique mission of promoting intergenerational programs and public policies, because he personally knows the benefits of intergenerational relationships, having been raised in part by a grandmother, sixty-three years his senior.

André is a graduate of Columbia Union College, with Bachelor of Science degrees in Business Administration and Organizational Management.

BOOK REVIEW-

LEGACY WORKS: TRANSFORMING MEMORY INTO VISUAL ART

Review Comments from Gladys Padró-Soler, MPA,
Chaplain Intern, North General Hospital
New York City

Legacy Works: Transforming Memory into Visual Art provides its readers with the ABC's of how to design and implement a successful visual arts program for elders at various life stages. A program of the National Center for Creative Aging/Elders Share the Arts, *Legacy Works* trains helpers to conduct life history exercises with elders, and recreate these life histories into beautiful works of art. Through the use of this manual, the reader learns a detailed, but not difficult, process of engaging the institution, the elder, and the helper into a collaboration which slowly transforms the minds and souls of all those involved.

Legacy Works began to take form in early 1996 when Susan Perlstein, founder of Elders Share the Arts, and I met to plan a program where teenagers would visit elders who were confined to their homes. Susan and I laid out our dreams for this program. We both knew what we wanted to achieve, we both knew the population, and intuitively we knew that we were planning what could be a model for many other programs.

Our project was funded and in the fall, staff and youth were selected for the program. Susan exquisitely handled the training and I was mesmerized. At each session the teenagers were learning how to work with the elderly, their self-esteem soaring. By the end of the first year, we had the

makings of a manual that incorporates recommendations from youth and elders adding dimensions and vitality that we could not have foreseen when we first planned the program. From this joint venture and the creative spirits of our younger and older artists, *Legacy Works* was born.

Legacy Works is an easy-to-use, step-by-step manual that will provide you and/or your staff with all you need to know about organizing a group, conducting training, staging an exhibit, and documenting and evaluating your program. *Legacy Works* includes almost everything you can think of that is necessary to get your program off the ground, such as nine wonderful and simple sample art projects that can be adapted in numerous ways. The manual does not include a budget for the program or recommendations for where to seek funding. However the National Center for Creative Aging/Elders Share the Arts are excellent resources for guidance in this area.

In short, *Legacy Works: Transforming Memory into Visual Art* is everything I wished for back in 1996 when I sat in Susan's trainings. It puts all her experience in your hands so that you can apply it in any setting that is dedicated to enriching the lives of an elderly population. Prepare yourself for the transformation of your service population, your institution, and yes—you yourself will be transformed!

For more information call 7-8-398-3870 or email
ncca@creativeagingworks.



INTERGENERATION DAY

OCTOBER 5, 2003

Culminating Intergeneration Activities Week

For more information visit www.intergenerationday.org or call

719-282-8190

THE NATIONAL RUNAWAY SWITCHBOARD: VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Karen Moglia

Communications Coordinator, The National Runaway Switchboard

National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) volunteer Anne Goldstein was honored as 2003 Volunteer of the Year by the National Network for Youth (NN4Y) at their annual symposium in Washington D.C. in February.

"Anne has made a significant contribution to both NRS and the community throughout the eight years she's been with us," said Maureen Blaha, NRS' executive director. "Having dedicated over 600 hours of service answering calls from families and youth, she is very deserving of the award."

Anne contributes much of her success as an NRS volunteer to the Call Center's truly collaborative environment and the diversity of the volunteer team. According to Anne, because the common goal is to provide callers with support and information to get them connected with local resources, volunteers are eager to work together, and they recognize the value of listening to and learning from each other.

"I especially enjoy listening to the younger volunteers when they are talking with youth," Anne confides. "I recognize that they are coming from a different place—connecting with youth in a different way—and I will often reiterate things I hear them say on my own calls. I hope that they, too, find it helpful to listen to me talk with parents, as I am a parent."

Anne came to NRS with over forty years of experience as a teacher, mother, and volunteer, all of which helped her become a compassionate and empathetic listener. For many

callers, adults and youth alike, a call to the NRS hotline is the first time they have ever discussed their issues with someone who listens in a non-judgmental way. The NRS Call Center is filled with volunteers of all ages and backgrounds who do just that.

Morgan Black, an NRS youth volunteer, agrees with Anne about the strength of a collaborative Call Center

environment. "Hearing the perspective and ideas of someone more experienced, like NRS senior volunteers, helps me find broader solutions with our callers. There have been many times when a senior volunteer has provided me with options or a plan that the caller and I just hadn't considered."

There is a place in the NRS Call Center for any individual who cares about youth and families. "Our callers need someone who can relate to them, listen to them and help them explore their options," explains Blaha. "Every volunteer brings his or her own experiences to the job and

to the team. That diversity is part of the reason our Call Center is so successful."

The National Runaway Switchboard, established in 1971, serves as the federally-designated national communication system for homeless and runaway youth and families in crisis. NRS' mission is to facilitate relationships that ensure youth and families have access to resources in their communities. With the support of over 100 volunteers who handled over 119,000 calls last year, NRS provides crisis intervention, education and prevention services to youth, families and community members throughout the country 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The NRS Crisis Hotline: 800-621-4000. www.nrscrisisline.org



Anne Goldstein (right) received the 2003 Volunteer of the Year Award from The National Network for Youth. Shown with student intern, Alma Molino.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

BECOME A GENERATIONS UNITED MEMBER TODAY

Generations United is the only national membership organization focused solely on promoting intergenerational policies, strategies and programs. Members support the work of GU and can provide direct input into GU's priorities.

Membership benefits include:

- annual subscription to *Together*, GU's quarterly newsletter
- conference and educational event discounts
- public policy alerts and briefings
- access to our national program profile database
- linkage to GU's web page
- discounts on GU publications
- and much more!

Join Generations United today to support and strengthen the intergenerational movement nationally and in Washington, DC. If you have any questions, please contact us at 202-638-1263.

Please make check payable to Generations United, and return to: Generations United, 122 C Street, N.W., Suite 820, Washington, DC 20001-2109

Membership Application:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Dues are paid on a yearly basis:

- ☐ Individual membership-\$50
 - ☐ Individual sustaining-\$100*
 - ☐ Student or Retiree membership-\$25
 - ☐ Organizational membership-Based on a sliding scale.
- Contact GU directly for more information before sending in form.

* Contributions above the basic membership fee support the work of Generations United and are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: programs, policy and research

SALLY NEWMAN PH.D, EDITOR

The Journal of Intergenerational Relationships: Program, Policy, and Research is the only international journal focusing exclusively on the intergenerational field from a practical, theoretical, and social policy perspective. The journal is a unique and comprehensive resource that will help you enhance your professional development and effectiveness.

The journal will be published both in print format and electronically. For more information about the journal and how to subscribe visit the journal's Web site at <http://jir.ucsur.pitt.edu> or call 412-648-7155

NEW RESOURCES

CONNECTING GENERATIONS... STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES provides detailed information to take organizations through the steps involved in designing, implementing, and maintaining intergenerational programs. The manual is accompanied by a CD-Rom Toolbox that includes blank forms to use in programs, evaluations, planning activities and sample training agendas. To order call: Temple Center for Intergenerational Learning at 215-204-6970

JOURNAL OF INTERGENERATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS: PROGRAMS, POLICY, AND RESEARCH, this journal focuses exclusively on the intergenerational field from a practical, theoretical, and social policy perspective. To order visit: www.HaworthPress.com

HIGH SCHOOLS OF THE MILLENNIUM: REPORT OF THE WORKGROUP, proposes a new vision of high school, one that uses all the resources of the community, including adult mentors and role models, to create smaller learning

environments. To order visit: www.aypf.org

GRANDPARENTING: ENRICHING LIVES – AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR TODAY'S GRANDPARENTS, provides guidance and ideas, through a video based format, for making the most out of the invaluable grandparent/parent/child relationship. To order visit: www.familysupportamerica.org.

LISTENING TO BIRTH FAMILIES: FORMING KINSHIP GROUPS, a video that illustrates how to create kinship groups to support families during times of crisis. To order visit: www.sociallearning.com.

CASA DE LOS BABYS, The latest film from independent writer/director John Sayles, is an insightful film about adoption, women and friendship. The film captures six American women on the verge of adopting a baby in a foreign country, while exploring the complex personal, emotional and political ramifications of adoption. *Casa de los Babys* will be in theaters early this fall. For

more information, go to www.ifcfilms.com.

GRANDPARENTING, a video program that employs a research-based model that gives grandparents proven, practical strategies to assist them in dealing with the many challenges of raising their grandchildren. To order visit: www.sociallearning.com.

TO GRANDMA'S HOUSE, WE...STAY: WHEN YOU HAVE TO STOP SPOILING YOUR GRANDCHILDREN AND START RAISING THEM, a guide that offers practical solutions to real-life problems that families face when traditional roles and relationships are redefined. To order visit: www.activeparenting.com.

CULTIVATING COMMON GROUND A HARVEST OF STORIES FROM WILMORE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Edited by Don Boekelheide

Cultivating Common Ground features the stories of eleven senior citizen community gardeners from Wilmore, an inner-city Charlotte, North Carolina neighborhood. During the course of a year, nine Wilmore teenagers worked to gather and document the oral histories and garden wisdom of their elders. The teens worked in the garden, conducted interviews and took pictures of the seniors at home and in the garden. This book is their shared harvest – a bumper crop of unforgettable tales about growing up in the Caroline Piedmont, along with the priceless nuggets of garden know-how and delicious recipes for garden fresh vegetables. A special resource section lists organizations helpful to those interested in organizing similar projects.

To order call 704-491-5646 or email june@cultivatingcommonground.org



METAMORPHOSIS: CARING FOR A GENERATION IN TRANSITION

Tom Willits, under the heading of Metamorphosis, has created an interactive presentation titled *Exploring New Ways Of Caring For A Generation In Transition*. He identifies ways for baby boomers and beyond to positively care for and affect their own lives, and those of others in their community as they experience their "third age". Performing four of his original songs as a catalyst, Tom speaks of the challenges of transition from a work or lifestyle situation to a new direction, while helping to bring into focus life-long interests or talents. This includes an emphasis on bringing the considerable life experience of this age group to younger generations in the form of varied mentoring programs.

Tom likens this experience to life's "songs" and the importance of teaching these songs to those in the younger generations. Each of the four songs he performs introduces a fifteen minute speaking segment focusing on the creative voice in everyone and how that voice can speak to clarify the different aspects of their changing lives. The segments are titled, *Planning For The Day of Transition*, *Transition To Different Work and Lifestyle Patterns*, *Family Dynamic Changes*, and *Grace In Experience*. The presentation, with questions and answers, is ninety minutes in length.

"I recently did a presentation for the Massachusetts Intergenerational Network and an audience with a member of every decade represented through age ninety. I was particularly taken by the younger members of the audience and their poignant comments and questions. The youngest (nine years old) spoke of the fun she had working with her group leader, a dynamic, seventy year old woman, and how much she had learned from someone older than her grandmother. The group leader spoke of the youth and vitality and exciting perspective her young group members brought her. They both spoke of how much they loved just being together on a weekly basis to plant a community



Tom Willits, singer/songwriter performs one of his segments on transitions in aging and the value of all generations.

garden."

Recording hit songs and performing for thousands sharing the stage with Billy Joel, Aerosmith, The Mamas and the Papas, Tom Rush, Peter, Paul and Mary, Jonathan Edwards, Lucy Kaplansky and before his own audiences, Tom has excited audiences for thirty years. Tom has also established, as owner/operator, four entertainment related companies, which focused on music and film endeavors, including the management of other music artist's careers (Debbie Gibson) and in a separate venture, owning movie theaters. He is a trustee of a family foundation.

For more information or to schedule a performance visit www.tomwillits.com or call 413-584-0682.

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

GU is pleased to announce the creation of a special fund to bring international participants to the Generations United and International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes (ICIP) Biennial International Conferences. Your support is needed. Practitioners from many countries are developing innovative intergenerational initiatives, but have limited resources for international travel. Their participation would both enrich these meetings and further the growth of intergenerational programs in their countries. To make a contribution to this important fund, please contact GU at www.gu.org or 202-638-1263.

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INNOVATION ACROSS THE AGES

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My anecdote dates to 1996, when following a tornado Laura is checking on damage to homes.

"There was this little gentleman," she begins. "He was just sitting in his wheelchair. In his lap was a fat dachshund. The dog's name was Roxy, as in Roxy the Doxy."

The man explained he was in his 80s, lived alone with Roxy and, "We don't get many visitors." Laura found there were no locks on the doors, that light bulbs burned out and weren't replaced and, being the dog aficionado, she noted the dachshund sorely needed exercise.

From this single, random visit the Home Safety for Seniors program was begun. It took Laura, and team, three years but today the safety net is fully operational—and is being duplicated in 26 other communities. As Laura points out, trained teams (both adult and youth volunteers) examine the homes, asking: do we need a smoke alarm? Fire extinguisher? Bathtub rails? Anti-skid mats?

Finally, this measure of Manatee County's queen of teens (U.S. News & World Report made Laura the cover girl for the April 13, 2000 issue.): the octogenarian gentleman today is in a nursing home, slowly surrendering to Alzheimer's disease. Every two weeks, Ms. Lockwood comes calling, escorted by Roxy, who now lives happily beside Laura's pet, a 200-pound bloodhound.

The nursing home resident "doesn't always know me," says Laura. However, "he always knows Roxy."

Laura Lockwood, school girl, got only passing grades. Beyond the school walls, where human nature is the principal course of study, Laura Lockwood, the woman, excels.

For more information on the ManaTEEN program call 941-761-3207 or visit www.manateen.org

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

21-22

The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University's 16th Annual Symposium, "Taking Fundraising Seriously: Philanthropy Across Generations," Indianapolis, IN. For more information visit www.philanthropy.iupui.edu.

28-30

International Institute for Restorative Practices' 4th International Conference, "Building a Global Alliance," Veldhoven, Netherlands. For more information visit www.iirp.org.

SEPTEMBER

4-6

Institute for Family-Centered Care's 1st International Conference on Family-Centered Care, "Advancing the Quality of Health Care in the 21st Century," Boston, MA. For more information visit www.familycenteredcare.org.

OCTOBER

5

Intergeneration Day. For more information visit www.intergenerationday.org.

15-18

Generations United's 12th International Conference, "Uniting Generations to Build a Better World," Old Town Alexandria, VA. For more information visit www.GU.org.

15-17

National Investment Center's 13th Annual Conference, Washington, DC. For more information visit www.NIC.org.

18-21

National Citizens Coalition for Nursing Home Reform 28th Annual Meeting "Elder Justice: Shaping Policy, Saving Lives," Arlington, VA. For more information visit <http://nursinghomesaction.org>

23-25

Search Institute's 2003 Healthy Communities, Healthy Youth Conference, San Jose, CA. For more information visit www.search-institute.org

26-29

American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging Meeting and Exposition, Denver, CO. For more information visit www.aahsa.org.

NOVEMBER

2-4

Independent Sector's Annual Conference, "Uncommon Visions for the Common Good," San Francisco, CA. For more information visit www.IndependentSector.org

5-8

National Association for the Education of Young Children's Annual Conference, Chicago IL. For more information visit www.naeyc.org.

7-8

Children's Rights Council's 14th National Conference, "Effecting Positive Outcomes for Children," Hanover, MD. For more information visit www.gocrc.com.

21-25

Gerontological Society of America, 56th Annual Scientific Meeting, San Diego, CA. For more information visit www.geron.org

DECEMBER

4-6

American Society on Aging's International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence, Washington, DC. For more information visit www.asaging.org

WEDNESDAY IN WASHINGTON™ GRANDRALLY TO LEAVE NO CHILD BEHIND®

for
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October 15, 2003

West Grassy Front of the United States Capitol
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For Information About the Grandrally

Call 202 662 3656
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www.childrensdefense.org

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AARP AARP

Child Welfare League of America



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National Committee of
Grandparents for
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☆ Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children: Support in the Workplace	\$7.00	_____	_____
☆ Behind the Scenes: Stories from Generations United's First Intergenerational Photography Contest	\$5.00	_____	_____
☆ Reaching Across the Ages: An Action Agenda to Strengthen Communities Through Intergenerational Shared Sites and Resources	\$10.00	_____	_____
☆ Kinship Care Annotated Bibliography	\$5.00	_____	_____
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Strengthening the Social Compact: An Intergenerational Strategy	\$5.00	_____	_____
Young and Old Serving Together: Meeting Community Needs Through Intergenerational Partnerships	\$10.00	_____	_____
Older Adults Caring for Children: Intergenerational Child Care	\$15.00	_____	_____
Celebrate the Generations: Intergenerational Week Guidebook	\$10.00	_____	_____
Generations Unite to Eliminate Child Poverty poster— free to members	\$1.50 (P&H)	_____	_____
Generations United Public Policy Agenda for the 108 th Congress (FREE TO MEMBERS)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Something to Remember Me By & Building Connections Between Young & Old. (Hardback)	\$5.00	_____	_____
Building Connections Between Young and Old (A readers companion to <i>Something to Remember Me By</i> .)	\$1.00	_____	_____
A Guide to the National Family Caregiver Support Program and Its Inclusion of Grandparents and Other Relatives Raising Children	\$7.00	_____	_____

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recent star in
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will offer his perspective on
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